

**TEESTA LOW DAM-III POWER STATION (132 MW), RAMBI, WEST BENGAL**

**SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS**

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

1.	<b>Project Type</b>	Hydroelectric Project																	
2.	<b>Name of the Project</b>	Teesta Low Dam-III Power Station (132 MW)																	
3.	<b>Clearance letter (s) OM No. &amp; Dates</b> a) Environment clearance b) Forest clearance	<div>a) Letter No. J-12011/44/2002-IA-I dated 16.07.2003.</div> <div>b)</div> <table><tr><th>Letter Nos.</th><th>Date</th><th>Forest Land (in ha)</th></tr><tr><td>F. No. 8-34/2003-FC</td><td>07.04.2004</td><td>302.49</td></tr><tr><td>F. No. 5-WBB033/2009-BHU</td><td>03.03.2010</td><td>7.595</td></tr><tr><td>F. No. 5-WBCO23/2010-BHU</td><td>02.06.2011</td><td>1.7154</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Total Forest Land</td><td>311.8004</td></tr></table>			Letter Nos.	Date	Forest Land (in ha)	F. No. 8-34/2003-FC	07.04.2004	302.49	F. No. 5-WBB033/2009-BHU	03.03.2010	7.595	F. No. 5-WBCO23/2010-BHU	02.06.2011	1.7154	Total Forest Land		311.8004
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4.	<b>Location</b>  a) District(s) b) State (s) c) Latitude d) Longitude	<div>Darjeeling</div> <div>West Bengal</div> <div>27°00'00" N</div> <div>88°27'30" E</div>																	
5.	<b>Address of Correspondence:</b> a) <b>Address of concerned Project Head</b> (with pin code & telephone/ fax nos.)  b) <b>Address of concerned HOD in Corporate Office</b> (with pin code & telephone/ fax no.)	<div><b>Group General Manager (Electrical)</b> Teesta Low Dam-III Power Station NHPC Limited, Rambhi , P.O. Reang, Distt. – Darjeeling - 734 321 (West Bengal). Telephone: 03552 – 261006 Mobile: 9800014544 Email: <a href="mailto:hop-tldp3@nhpc.nic.in">hop-tldp3@nhpc.nic.in</a></div> <div><b>Executive Director</b> (Environment &amp; Diversity Management Division), NHPC Limited, NHPC Office Complex, Sector - 33, Faridabad, Haryana - 121 003. Telephone: 0129-2250111 E-mail: <a href="mailto:envdivmgn-co@nhpc.nic.in">envdivmgn-co@nhpc.nic.in</a></div>																	
6.	<b>Details of environmental management plan:</b>	As per <b>Annexure-I.</b>																	

7.	<b>Break-up of the Project area:</b> a) Forest Land  b) Others (Non-forest)	(i) Forest Land for submergence	172.90 ha
		(ii) Forest Land for other project activities	138.90 ha
		a) Total Forest Land acquired (i+ii)	311.80 ha
		b) Handed over of Temporary Forest Land	37.002 ha
		Total Forest Land in use (a – b)	274.80 ha
		c) Non-Forest (Govt.) Land	25.70 ha
		Total Land (a – b + c)	300.50 ha
8.	<b>Breakup 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.</b> SC / ST / Tribals / Others	Details of PAFs are as under: 1. i) Fully Affected Families: 09 SC/ST: 02 Others: 07 ii) Partially affected families: 27 SC/ST: 11 Others: 16 2. Additional nos. of families declared as PAF: 84 SC/ST: 05 Others: 79	
9.	<b>Financial details</b> 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.  c) Allocations made for EMPs.  d) Actual expenditure incurred on the EMPs so far.	a) As per DPR, Total Project cost: ₹ 768.92 crore at Dec. 2002 PL (As approved by CCEA)  b) Actual expenditure on Project: ₹ 1917.45 crores (Revised completion cost).  c) Total allocated amount for EMP: ₹ 1773.71 lakh (Dec., 2002 PL) CCEA approved cost including R&R Plan. d) Total expenditure on EMP: ₹ 9247.56 lakh (Detail is enclosed as <b>Annexure-I</b> )	
10.	<b>Forest Land requirements:</b> a) Status of approval for diversion of forest land for non-forestry use.  b) The status of clear felling in forest land	a) 302.49 ha, 7.595 ha and 1.7154 ha forest land were diverted vide letter dt. 07.04.2004, 03.03.2010 & 02.06.2011, respectively.  b) Trees standing in the diverted forest area felled by the West Bengal State Forest Department as per requirement.	
11.	<b>Status of construction</b> a) Date of commencement (actual and / or planned) b) Date of completion (actual and / or planned).	a) 01.05.2004  b) 19.05.2013	
12.	<b>Reasons for the delay. If the project is yet to start</b>	Not Applicable	

13.	<b>Details of site visit</b> a) By monitoring committee  b) By regional Office	a) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Environmental Monitoring Committee meetings were held on 10.08.2005, 13-14.04.2006, 15-16.01.2008, 11-12.12.2008, 20.04.2010, 22.09.2011, 12.09.2015, 15.01.2018, 25.11.2019 and 18.06.2021 (virtual) respectively. b) Deputy Director, RO-Bhubaneswar, MoEF&CC visited the project site during EMC meeting on 15.01.2018. Scientist 'B' from RO-Bhubaneswar, MoEF&CC visited Project during EMC meeting on 25.11.2019.
14.	<b>Brief note on the status of compliance of the conditions stipulated by MoEF</b>	Status of compliance of the conditions stipulated by MoEF&CC is given in <b>Annexure-II</b> .

**Annexure-I**

Details of Allocations vs. Expenditure Incurred on Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) for  
Teesta Low Dam-III Power Station

(Till March 2025)

S. No.	EMP	Allocation as per EMP (Aug 2003 PL) (₹ in lakh)	Revised Completion Cost (June 2013 PL) (₹ in lakh)	Expenditure (₹ in lakh)
1	Compensatory Afforestation Plan	614.70	565.16	565.16
2	CAT Plan	479.43	914.29	914.29
3	Wild Life Management Plan	40.00	40.00	37.00
4	Green Belt Development Plan	18.51	47.00	52.36
5	Restoration Plan for Dumping Sites Disposal Plan	83.33	29.13	476.76
6	Restoration of Borrow areas, Quarry and construction sites	7.96	17.50	15.83
7	Reservoir Rim Treatment	125.00	3665.03	3219.28
8	*Fuel Provision (Contractor Clause)	11.68	0.00	0.00
9	*Health Management	40.00	0.87	0.87
10	Air Quality Management Plan	2.00	2.31	13.24
11	Water Quality Management Plan	2.00	8.00	
12	*Solid waste Management (Contractor Clause)	46.08	9.00	3.49
13	Landscaping & Beautification plan	8.14	12.00	10.39
14	Socio-economic up-liftment of area	81.4	261.36	840.40
15	Disaster Management Plan	61.21	25.00	107.20
16	Environment Monitoring Programme	75.00	40.60	33.80
17	Net Present Value	--	1929.40	1929.40
18	Cost of felling operation of trees and cleaning of reservoir area	--	44.11	44.11
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1696.44</b>	<b>7610.76</b>	<b>8263.58</b>
	<b>Under B-land</b>			
19	R & R Plan	77.27	1127.27	1476.43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1773.71</b>	<b>8738.03</b>	<b>9740.01</b>
*Expenditure on this account was incurred by the contractors as per contract agreement.				

A brief note on status of compliances of conditions as stipulated in Environment Clearance Letter

S. No.	Conditions stipulated in EC	Compliances Status
	<b>Part A: Specific Conditions</b>	
i.	9 families of the 2 villages of Geil Khola & 29th Mile, comprising total 51 persons will be affected. Out of total, 31 persons are fully affected and 19 persons partially affected. The affected families should be rehabilitated as per R & R plan proposed & submitted this ministry.	<p>As per EIA &amp; EMP Report, total 36 nos. of Project Affected Families (PAFs) got affected due to formation of reservoir. Out of which 27 families were losing land and 9 families losing their homestead land &amp; house and all the 36 nos. of PAFs were compensated.</p> <p>Further, in view of impoundment of the reservoir and operation of Project, a compensation Committee was constituted by the Gorkha Territorial Administration (GTA) vide Memo dated 20.02.2014 for families residing along the rim of reservoir. The Committee identified total 84 nos. PAFs located across three villages viz. 29th Mile, Geil Khola and Teesta Bazar along rim of reservoir on right bank of river Teesta.</p> <p>Details of Compensation are as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the 1<sup>st</sup> phase, an amount of ₹ 106.65 lakhs was sanctioned for 13 nos. of PAFs at 29<sup>th</sup> Mile. Out of which a total of ₹ 93.44 lakh was disbursed to 11 PAFs as per consent of District Administration and GTA, whereas 2 PAFs refused to accept the compensation determined by the committee.</li> <li>In the 2nd Phase, amount ₹ 837.75 lakhs was sanctioned for balance 71 PAFs. Out of which a total of ₹ 813.08 lakh was disbursed to 71 PAFs (68 PAF's received full amount while 03 PAFs received 50% amount) as per consent of District Administration and GTA. The balance 50% amount of compensation will be disbursed to 03 nos. of PAFs subject to dismantling of their home shed.</li> </ol> <p>As such, out of 84 nos. of PAFs, 79 have received full compensation, 03 have received 50 % compensation while 02 have not received 1<sup>st</sup> stage payment of the compensation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compensation was also disbursed for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarry workers: 763 Nos.</li> <li>Rafting Affected: 115 Nos.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
ii.	Catchment Area Treatment Plan: The area of 12022.43 ha identified as very highly degraded and highly degraded catchment area should be completed in five years.	An amount of ₹ 914.29 lakh was released by TLD-III for implementation of CAT plan out of which ₹ 341.00 was deposited to the Govt. of West Bengal and ₹ 573.29 was deposited to the Govt. of Sikkim. Till date ₹ 305.98 lakh has been utilized under CAT plan by the Forest

		<p>Deptt. of West Bengal whereas ₹ 412.82 lakh has been utilized under CAT plan by the Forest Deptt. of Sikkim. As such, total fund of ₹ 718.80 lakh has been utilized by West Bengal and Sikkim Forest Departments for the work till date.</p> <p>Various engineering measures such as sausage walls, crate walls, catch water drains, stepped drains, stone masonry plum wall, palisade wall, belly benching, etc. have been carried-out by the concerned State Forest Departments under CAT Plan. Plantation and other biological activities have also been undertaken under biological measures as per the approved CAT working plan. Project is continuously pursuing with the State Forest Departments for early completion of the balance CAT works.</p>
iii	Biodiversity Conservation Plan: the proposed Orchidarium near the barrage should include a provision for conservation of rare orchids that are likely to get submerged. Conservation of rare orchids as proposed should be carried out in consultation with the Department of Forest, Govt. of West Bengal and North Bengal University.	An Orchidarium and Arboretum has been established through Darjeeling Forest Division over an area of 6 ha forest land at Reang Block near TLD-III PS. Wild orchids were collected from the surrounding areas and transferred into Orchidarium for conservation in consultation with the Forest Deptt. and North Bengal University. An amount of ₹ 58.45 was deposited on behalf of both TLD-III & IV to West Bengal Forest Department. Out of which ₹ 30 lakh was utilized by Darjeeling Forest Division till date. Project is continuously pursuing with the State Forest Department for early completion of the balance works.
iv	The basic data of Ambient Air Quality, Noise Quality, Ground Water Quality, Biochemical Oxygen Demand and Coliform count of surface water should be monitored periodically and reports submitted.	The parameters are being monitored periodically by the Project through WBPCB approved laboratories.
<b>Part B: General Conditions</b>		
i.	Adequate free fuel arrangement should be made for the labour force engaged in the construction work at project cost so that indiscriminate felling of trees is prevented.	Project is under operation stage since September 2013 and all major construction works were completed at site and presently no labour camp is located at Power Station. However, the condition related to fuel arrangement was duly complied during construction stage.
ii	Fuel depot may be opened at the site to provide the fuel (kerosene/wood/LPG). Medical facilities as well as recreational facilities should also be provided to the labourers.	Project was commissioned in September 2013, as such no labour camp is present at project site. Free medical facilities are being provided to local villagers as well as others in the project dispensary.

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.	The project was commissioned in September 2013, as such no labour population residing at the project site now. Necessary health care facilities were provided by the Project as well as major contractors to the labour and staff engaged at work site during construction phase. Free medical facilities are also being provided to local villagers as well as labourers in the project dispensary run by the NHPC. Free medical check-ups camps, vaccination camp and awareness camps are being organized by the project on regular basis for providing easy and accessible medical facility to the people residing in and around the project area. Free medicines are made available from OPD to all needy ones from nearby villages. Dispensary runs the OPD & Emergency Services with 4 Beds for day care of patients. Fully equipped Ambulance services are available 24x7 for the patients. Dispensary is also equipped with modern facilities for checking health of mother and child in antenatal cases (pregnant women). OPD is regularly conducted in Deorali, a model village of TLD III PS with free medicines. Also, Project has provided medical equipment & Ambulance to the local Govt. PHC at Rambhi for improvement of overall health conditions of the local communities.
iv	Restoration of construction area including dumping site of excavated materials should be ensured by levelling, filling up of borrow pits, landscaping etc. The area should be properly treated with suitable plantation.	Muck generated during excavation and construction of project was dumped at designated dumping area. As per the disposal and restoration plan, necessary protection measures were provided at muck disposal area. Biological measure in the form of Plantation of local species of bushes and tree were also carried out at dumping sites.
v	Financial provision should be made in the total budget of the project for implementation of the above suggested measures.	Fund provision was duly made in the total budget of Project for implementation of above safeguard measures.
vi	A multidisciplinary committee should be constituted with representative from various disciplines of forestry, ecology, wildlife, soil conservation, NGO etc. to oversee the effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures.	The multidisciplinary environment monitoring committee (EMC) was constituted on 31.05.2002. The 10 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the multidisciplinary monitoring committee was conducted on 18.06.2021. The committee reviewed the implementation of Environment Management Plans along with EC conditions.
vii	Six monthly monitoring reports should be submitted to the Ministry and its Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for review.	Six monthly monitoring report is being submitted to MoEF&CC regularly. The last six monthly report was submitted vide letter No. NH/Env/95/1160 dated 18.11.2024 to IRO, Kolkata and MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

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