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Protection of Environment is our
Moral and Legal Obligation

Azad Jammu & Kashmir Environmental Protection Agency

Ref #: EPA/1546-52/2017

Date: 29-05-2017

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|----|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Name & Address of Proponent | Mr. Raja Raheel, Chief Executive Office
Power Impact (Pvt.) Limited Islamabad. |
| 2. | Description of Project | Construction of 2.85 MW Bheri
Hydropower Project. |
| 3. | Location of Project | Village Bheri, Tehsil Pattika, District
Muzaffarabad, AJK. |
| 4. | Date of filling of Application | 07-09-2016 |

CONDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL

(Under Section-11 of AJK-Environmental Protection Act, 2000 read with IEE/EIA Regulations, 2009)

In exercise of powers conferred by Section 11 of the AJK-Environmental Protection Act, 2000 after review of Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Report submitted on September 07, 2016; this is to accord Environmental Approval in favor of **Power Impact(Pvt.) Ltd.** (the proponent) for the **Construction of 2.85 MW Bheri Hydropower Project**; subject to the fulfillment of following conditions.-

- I. Proponent shall ensure compliance to National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQs) during construction and operational phases of the project;
- II. The proponent is bound to implement all the commitments/recommendations of IEE of 2.85 MW Bheri Hydropower Project to meet the environmental & social safeguards of the project area, in true letter and spirit;
- III. Mitigation measures suggested in the IEE Report and Environmental & Social Management Plan (EMSP) shall be strictly adhered to ensure not to cause any negative impact on soil, ground water, ambient air quality, noise level, natural drainage, flooding, hill torrents and biological resources of the project area. Institutional arrangements for implementation of **Environmental and Social Management Plan** may be finalized before the commencement of construction phase so that proposed mechanism for environmental protection & management should be operated well in time;
- IV. The reported mean annual flow of Nullah is 4.14 m³/s and the design discharges 2.0m³/s. The proponent shall ensure 0.5m³/s at least E-flow during lean period to avoid any serious damage to stream aquaculture downstream during lean period;
- V. Proponent shall constitute Environmental Management Unit (EMU) or Environment Management and implementation (EM&I) Committee having the representatives of all concerned stakeholders. The reporting mechanism and ToRs of the committee shall be finalized in consultation with AJK-EPA;
- VI. The proponent shall be bound to submit Environmental Monitoring reports during entire period of the project, on quarterly basis to the AJK-EPA;
- VII. Well before the commencement of construction activities of the project; in the light of observation of Forest Department; the proponent shall undertake fresh survey of flora and fauna of the project area. As the provided information in this regard, are inadequate;
- VIII. The proponent shall ensure not to cut the trees or remove the green vegetation cover unnecessarily. The tree loss should be compensated through planting 10 trees for the loss of one tree. The plantation activities may be done through Forest Department or, if done independently, must be in consultation with the department concerned;
- IX. The proponent shall undertake the acquisition of the land through Revenue Department and compensation shall be provided to inhabitants in case of loss of agriculture land, crops,

pastures, property, and usage rights etc. in accordance with the prevalent Law and practices. All conflicting issues regarding compensation should be settled amicably before starting construction activities;

- X. In case the blasting is inevitable, the controlled techniques, in accordance with the *Pakistan Explosive Act*, should be adopted;
- XI. In case of precious /semi-precious stones/mineral discovery and/or articles of Archeological importance like artifacts, coins, rock-art and other archeological relics are discovered, during constructional the proponent should immediately stop the work and the concerned department or agency should be consulted for taking appropriate action;
- XII. The proponent shall rehabilitate all sites to their natural conditions affected by temporary use during the construction phase;
- XIII. In case independent Environmental Specialist Companies/Organizations are to be hired, as a compulsory arrangement to undertake measurements of different parameters for determining water & air quality and assessing noise emission level either during construction or operation phases of the proposed project, the findings of such quality analysis shall positively be shared with AJK-EPA on regular basis;
- XIV. Proponent shall put in place efficient health & safety plan for project, workers which should be reinforced by a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan;
- XV. To avoid putting the existing utility services of project area's community under stress, the proponent shall install independent arrangements for construction and labor camps. The labor camps should be placed in a manner that it may not disturbs the privacy of the local people;
- XVI. Preference for, semi-skilled and unskilled jobs/employment shall be provided to the local people including all skilled jobs. Employment record for all positions shall be provided to AJK-EPA positively on quarterly basis;
- XVII. Proponent shall ensure that all public utilities such as water supply pipes, power/phone lines etc. are not disturbed/damaged during the execution of the project. In case replacing any public utility is inevitable then alternative may be provided to the people of the area in consultation with the respective agencies under intimation to AJK-EPA;
- XVIII. Proponent shall take special safety measures while working close to the schools and hospitals;
- XIX. Proponent/Contractor shall make sure the safety & security of wildlife and their habitats at the project site and in its environs and adhering strictly to the guidelines of Wildlife Department as the project is located near Machaira National Park;
- XX. During the excavation; the dug material and spoil should be strictly dumped at pre-identified locations. Free roll down of excavated material shall be strictly prohibited to avert damage to green vegetative cover, water bodies, perennial & non-perennial drains, irrigation channels, springs, communication routes and productive lands;
- XXI. To ensure the conformity of noise to NEQSS, the mechanized plants and machinery must be fitted with noise abatement devices. The sites to install the asphalt plants and other machinery would be selected in consultation with the AJK-EPA. While selecting temporary utility sites, special consideration must be given to critical installations like schools, hospitals, mosques, community hall, etc;
- XXII. Either prior to or during the implementation of the project, if the Agency deems necessary to have supplementary details of the facts or information already reported to the AJK-EPA or other than that, required for the better environment management under this project, the proponent shall be liable to furnish the same to the Agency as and when required;

- XXIII. During implementation of the project, the proponent shall abide by all the applicable laws of the State of AJ&K;
- XXIV. Proponent shall be liable for compliance of regulations 13, 14, 17 & 18 IEE/EIA Regulations 2009, which enunciate the conditions for approval, confirmation of compliance, entry, inspection and monitoring of the proposed project;
- XXV. Proponent would be responsible to facilitate AJK-EPA team for any visit for inspection/monitoring, etc;
- XXVI. Proponent shall be liable for the correctness and validity of the information furnished in updated IEE by the environmental consultants;
- XXVII. Proponent shall provide the copy of this approval and IEE report to the contractors for information and compliance;
- XXVIII. Any change in the approved project shall be communicated to AJK-EPA and shall be commenced after obtaining the approval;
- XXIX. This approval does not absolve the proponent of the duty to obtain any other approval or clearance that may be required under any law in force or by any competent forum/court of law;
- XXX. The proponent shall be bound to submit an undertaking for acknowledgement to be submitted on Judicial Stamp Paper that conditions mentioned herein have been completely understood and will implement the conditions of approval in terms of Clause (2) of Regulation 13 and Schedule VI of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir Environmental Protection Agency Review of Initial Environmental Examination and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation 2009";
- XXXI. This Approval shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of issue under Section 16 of IEE/EIA Regulation, 2009;
- XXXII. This approval shall stand "NULL" and "VOID" if any of the Conditions, mentioned hereinbefore, are not fully complied with; and
- XXXIII. This approval can be withdrawn at any time without any prior notice if deem necessary in the best interest of Public or State of AJK.

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29.5.17
(Raja Muhammad Razzaque)
Director General-EPA

CC.-

1. Additional Chief Secretary (Dev.)/Secretary Environment: for Information.
2. Secretary P&DD: for information.
3. Secretary Forests, Wildlife, Fisheries and AKLASC,
4. Secretary Electricity,
5. Director General, Private Power Cell,
6. Master File.

Govt. of AJ&K