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Protection of Environment is our  
Moral and Legal Obligation

## Azad Jammu & Kashmir Environmental Protection Agency

Ref #: EPA/1172-81/2018

Date: 18-04-2018

1. Name & Address of Proponent: **Premier Power Generation (Pvt.) Limited.**
2. Description of Project: **Construction of 3.0 MW Dachoor Miran Hydropower Project, District Muzaffarabad.**
3. Location of Project: **Weir on Naushera Nullah at Village Lehnda Dachoor Miran connecting through 2688 m Surface Channel to the Powerhouse located at Bailli Dachoor Miran.**
4. Date of Filing of Application: **08-11-2017.**

### **CONDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL**

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

5. In exercise of powers conferred under Section 11 of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Environmental Protection Act 2000 and after the review of Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Report, the undersigned hereby accord Environmental Approval in favor of *Premier Power Generation (Pvt.) Limited* (the proponent) for the **Construction Phase of 3.0 MW Dachoor Miran Hydropower Project (the Project)**; subject to the fulfillment of conditions by the proponent as enumerated hereunder:-

#### **A. Environmental Flow (e-flow):**

- (i). As the Project is designed with 0.1 - 0.15 m<sup>3</sup>/s Environmental (Ecological) Flow (E-Flow) downstream but, due to environmental sensitivities of project area, the Proponent shall implement DMHPP with E-Flow during Operational Phase not less than 0.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s, in lean period;
- (ii). To ensure that 0.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s E-Flow will remain available downstream during lean period, the Proponent shall install a Gauging/Metering Station or Facility at any suitable location to verify and record the flow data for sharing with EPA, accordingly.
- (iii). In case, during operational phase, the reduced flow affects the functioning of Watermills and Mini Hydropower Plants situated downstream; the Proponent shall be liable to rehabilitate these or compensate to the satisfaction of owners.

#### **B. Compensations, Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and Grievance Redressal System:**

- (i). The Proponent shall pay compensation to the owners for land, loss of crops, business, livelihood, property, usage rights etc. with rates as agreed upon under prevalent laws & practices to the satisfaction of affectees;
- (ii). The Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), once finalized, shall be submitted to EPA for endorsement. The Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) should preferably be implemented through Public Grievances Redress and Settlement Committee (PGRSC) having eminent representation of community Notables and Administration Department;
- (iii). The Proponent shall establish and maintain a 'Grievance Redressal System' (CGRS). The Grievance Redressal Committee formulated under CGRS, headed by respective Assistant Commissioner, should have the representation other than of Premier Power Generation Pvt. Ltd., of Affectees, EPA, C&W, Forest & Wildlife and Agriculture Departments;
- (iv). To show the status of grievances and actions taken to redress them, the Proponent shall submit quarterly report to the EPA.



**C. Provision of alternative of affected Water Channels.**

The proponent is liable to provide alternative of the four (04) water channels i.e. Mannu Channel, Konda Channel, Khokhran Channel and Kharbian Channel, located downstream of said nullah which were exclusively laid for agriculture purpose. The proposed alternative is aimed at minimizing the impacts on the Agriculture production of the project catchment area as a result of development of the said Hydropower Project.

**D. National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQSs):**

- (i). The Proponent shall ensure compliance to National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQSs);
- (ii). The mechanized plants, machinery and other equipment must be fitted with noise abatement devices and should have the conformity to NEQSs;
- (iii). The Proponent/Contractor shall ensure water sprinkling to suppress dust at all construction sites;
- (iv). In case independent **Environment Specialist Companies (ISO-certified)** are to be hired as a compulsory arrangement to undertake measurements of different parameters. In order to ensure effective compliances of NEQSs; the findings of quality analysis and report of compliance to NEQSs should be shared with EPA AJK on regular basis during the construction phase of the project.

**E. Environmental Management Plan (EMP):**

- (i). All mitigation measures, as suggested in the IEE Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP), shall be strictly adhered to. This should be indicated or reported as a "Commitment";
- (ii). Institutional arrangements for implementation of **Environmental Management Plan (EMP)** may be finalized well before the commencement of construction of project, so that an efficient & effective mechanism for environmental protection & management should be operative well on time.

**F. Jobs/Employment for Local People:**

- (i). The Proponent will take a policy measures and thereunder, it shall be obligatory on Contractor to provide employment preferably to local people for all semi-skilled and unskilled jobs. Preference should also be given to local people for skilled jobs as well. Employment record for all positions shall be provided to EPA AJK on quarterly basis;
- (ii). For labor and all other types of workforce, the Contractor shall ensure strict compliance to Labor Laws.

**G. Quarrying Sites & Spoil Dumps:**

- (i). Given to the geology, topography, terrain and demography of project areas; pre-identified and EPA approved sites shall be used/utilized for quarrying purpose so that the issues like land degradation, soil erosion, sedimentation of water bodies and potential threats to human life & properties and public infrastructure could be avoided;
- (ii). The Proponent shall bound the Contractor to strictly ensure dumping of spoil or excavated material on pre-identified and designated sites/places both at Weir, fore bay, Headrace as well as Power House sites; duly approved by EPA. In order to avert damage to vegetative cover, perennial & non-perennial drains, irrigation channels, communication routes and productive lands; the free roll-down of spoil on hill slopes shall be strictly prohibited. The dumping of spoil into water bodies like streams & nullahs shall be considered a sheer violation of this Approval. During transportation of spoil, adequate measures must be in-placed to avoid littering of roads or dust emission, etc.;



- (iii). The Proponent shall bound Contractor to take effective measures (installation of protection walls, Gabion walls, etc.) for land stabilization and prepared a comprehensive plantation plan at pre-identified dumping sites after land leveling with the consultation of Forest Department.
- (iv). The Proponent shall bound the Contractor to prepare Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan (SSEMP). In order to ensure best environmental management during construction phase, besides quarrying sites and spoils dumps, the SSEMP preferably be developed for all construction related activities as well and be submitted to AJK-EPA well before undertaking these activities;
- (v). The Proponent/Contractor shall strictly avoid OPEN SOURCE acquisition of aggregate or construction material from sites other than identified and approved by EPA.

#### **H. Vibration Impact on Property:**

All public or private buildings within 200 M of the blasting site will be surveyed prior to start of blasting. The survey will be undertaken independently by the Owner's Engineer, the Proponent, or a Third Party and will be undertaken to determine the pre-Project conditions of the buildings structure including any pre-existing damages. The survey results will be used to settle any damage claims arising out of the blasting activities.

#### **I. Project Sites Demarcation Plan.**

The Proponent should bound the Contractor to mark the project sites (Weir, connecting surface channel, Powerhouse, Labor Camp, PMU Staff Colony sites etc.) with the consultation of Revenue Department before the commencement of construction work and install a fence wall around aforementioned sites to ensure the public privacy.

#### **J. Construction Camps, Sewage & Waste Management:**

- (i). The Construction Camps shall be located/constructed at suitable distance from any settlement to avoid disturbance or intrusion into the privacy of local communities. Independent arrangements shall be made for sewage disposal/treatment and solid waste. The sewage treatment facilities/septic tanks shall be constructed at a suitable place from any permanent or seasonal water source and should not be located/constructed in the areas where high ground water table exists;
- (ii). For construction camps, instead putting the local resources under stress, independent arrangements should be made/laid for commodity services;
- (iii). The waste, chemical and oil spill generated during construction activities should be managed scientifically to avert any damage to flora & fauna and overall ecology of the area, etc.

#### **K. Traffic Management:**

- (i). The Proponent shall bound the Contractor to work out a proper Traffic Management Plan, during construction phase, while working near settlements, towns, schools and hospitals;
- (ii). The timings for transportation of construction material, aggregate & spoil, movement of heavy machinery and equipment should be fixed and predetermined to avoid traffic jams, inconvenience for commuters and local community.

#### **L. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)/Community Investment Plan (CIP):**

For the socio-economic uplift of Project Area Community, the Proponent should consider and undertake some development interventions particularly for the up-gradation or improvement of existing health & education facilities, development of recreational sites, rehabilitation of existing Infrastructure, provision of safe drinking facilities and etc. In this respect, a CIP/CSR Plan shall be worked out and shared with EPA.



**M. Provision of Conditional Environmental Approval to Contractor:**

The Proponent shall provide a copy of this Conditional Environmental Approval and EIA Report to the contractor for efficient & effective implementation of obligatory mitigation measures. A regular Training Program preferably be devised for workers, labor, and implementing & management staff of the Contractor to ensure effective compliance from them during construction activities.

**N. Environmental Audit.**

The Proponent shall be responsible to conduct the Environmental audit through 3<sup>rd</sup> party (certified Environmental experts company) at the end of construction phase.

**O. General Conditions:**

- (i). The Proponent/contractor shall make sure the safety & security of wild animals and their habitats at the project site and in its environs with the prior consultation and strictly adhering to the guidelines of Wildlife Departments;
- (ii). The proponent shall rehabilitate all sites to their natural conditions affected by temporary use during the construction phase;
- (iii). The Proponent shall bound Contractor to select sites for installation of the asphalt/concrete mixing plant in consultation with EPA AJK. In this respect, special consideration shall be given to critical installations like school, hospitals, mosques, community hall, etc.;
- (iv). The Proponent shall bound the Contractor to ensure efficient Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) measures in-placed for workers and labor throughout the construction period;
- (v). In case, the articles of Archeological importance like artifacts, coins rock-arts and other archeological relics are discovered, the work at the site should immediately be stopped and the concerned department or agency should be consulted for the appropriate action;
- (vi). The Proponent shall ensure all public utilities, such as water supply pipes, power/phone lines be not disturbed during any construction activity of the project. If removal of such installations is inevitable then alternative may be provided to the people of the area beforehand, in consultation with respective agencies under intimation to AJK EPA;
- (vii). The proponent shall be liable for the correctness and validity of the information furnished by the environmental consultant;
- (viii). The Proponent shall be liable for compliance of regulations 13, 14, 17 & 18 of IEE/EIA Regulations 2009, which enunciate the conditions for approval, confirmation of compliance, entry, inspection and monitoring of the proposed project;
- (ix). The Proponent shall facilitate EPA team during inspections and monitoring of the Project etc.;
- (x). Any change hereinafter in the approved project, shall be communicated to AJK-EPA and shall commence after obtaining the approval in respect thereof;
- (xi). 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, etc.;
- (xii). This Approval shall be valid for a period of 'Three Years' from the date of issuance under Regulation 16 of IEE/EIA Regulation, 2009;
- (xiii). The EPA AJK, in continuation or supersession of any of the Conditions mentioned hereinbefore for the construction of DMHPP, may impose additional conditions as and when the situation may warrant so;
- (xiv). The proponent shall be bound by Regulation 13 (2) read-with Schedule VII of the Regulations to furnish an UNDERTAKING to the Agency in terms that the proponent solemnly affirms and declare that the proponent fully understands and accept conditions

- contained in the approval accorded by the AJK-EPA and undertake to design, construct and operate the project strictly in accordance with the said conditions and the IEE;
- (xv). This approval shall stand null and void in case any of the conditions, mentioned hereinbefore, are not fully complied with;
- (xvi). This Approval may be considered for review or withdrawal at any stage, as per stipulated procedure, if deemed appropriate in the larger public interest.

IEE Tracking No. 133



*[Signature]*  
18.4.18  
(Raja Muhammad Razzaque)  
Director General

**Mr. Shahid Anwar,**  
**Chief Executive Officer,**  
Premier Power Generation (Pvt.) Limited,  
House No. 310, Street 16, Sector F-10/2,  
**Islamabad.**

CC.-

- ✓ 1. PSO to the Chief Secretary,
2. Addl. Chief Secretary (Dev)/Secretary Environment,
3. Senior Member Board of Revenue,
4. Secretary Power Development Organization,
5. Secretary Forest, Wildlife & Fisheries,
6. Director General, Private Power Cell/PDO,
7. Commissioner, Muzaffarabad Division, Muzaffarabad.
8. Deputy Commissioners, Muzaffarabad.
9. Master File.

Azad Govt. of the State of Jammu &  
Kashmir, Muzaffarabad.