



AZAD GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
MUZAFFARABAD



Ref. #: 3016-22

Date: 28-12-2015

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|----|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Name & Address of Proponent | National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC). |
| 2. | Description of Project | Installation of 500KV Transmission Line Under Neelum - Jhelum Hydropower Project. |
| 3. | Location of Project | Chatter Kalas to Rawat Ghaker (RG-2) near village Hayal Mughlan, Tehsil Gujjar Khan, District Rawalpindi. |
| 4. | Date of filling of Application | 14-04-2015 |

CONDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL

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

5. In exercise of powers conferred under Section-11 of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Environmental Protection Act, 2000, after the review of updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA), submitted on 14 April, 2015 this is to accord Environmental Approval in favor of **National Transmission and Dispatch Company Limited (NTDC)** (the proponent) for the **Installation of 500KV Transmission Line Under Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project** from Chatter Kalas, District Muzaffarabad to Hollar, District Kotli, subject to the fulfillment of following conditions by the proponent:
- I. The Proponent shall ensure compliance to National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQSS) during the construction phase of the project.
 - II. The proponent is bound to implement all the commitments/recommendations of updated EIA of 500KV Neelum Jhelum Transmission Line to meet the environmental & social safeguards of the project area, in true letter and spirit.
 - III. Mitigation measures as suggested in Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of updated EIA Report shall be adhered and implemented strictly to ensure not to cause any negative impact on soil, ground water, ambient air quality, noise level, natural drainage, flooding, hill torrents shadow, heat reflection and biological resources of the project area.
 - IV. The Proponent shall adhere and ensure implementation, in true letter & spirit, of all measures provided under EMP during 'Construction Phase/Stage' particularly suggested against; *Hydrology and drainage aspects, Site erosion, landslides and associated impact, Impacts on Air*



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and Water Quality, Noise & ground vibration, Construction/solid waste disposal, Work camps location & operation, Impacts on Local Water Resources, Impacts on Flora, Loss of trees and vegetation cover, Impacts on Fauna, Impacts on socio-economic & cultural resources, Occupational health & safety, Community health & safety and Traffic Management.

- V. Institutional arrangements for implementation of **Environmental Management Plan (EMP)** may be finalized before the commencement of construction phase so that proposed mechanism for environmental protection & management should be operated well in time.
- VI. The Proponent shall submit a comprehensive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Plan to the AJK-EPA within two months of the issuance of this Approval meant for the socio-economic uplift of communities of the project area.
- VII. The 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.
- VIII. The proponent shall submit Environmental Monitoring reports through entire period of the project, on quarterly basis to the AJK-EPA.
- 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 at any site.
- X. The Proponent shall establish and keep a close liaison with Govt. departments/agencies like Forest, Wildlife and Agriculture, in addition to EPA, during the construction phase for information sharing and effective implementation of EMP.
- XI. The proponent shall verify the floral diversity profile at each site before the commencement of construction activities of towers. The proponent shall strictly avoid unnecessary cutting of trees and if tree cutting is unavoidable, the loss of 01 tree must be compensated through planting 10.
- XII. The Proponent shall execute Re-plantation activity with the assistance and close coordination of Forest Department, Govt. AJ&K, and local communities. The proponent may entrust this activity to Forest Department. In case of doing by their own, the Re-plantation activity and execution plan should be duly endorsed and approved by the Forest



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Department accordingly. Concerted efforts should be taken to ensure the maximum survival of new-planted saplings.

- XIII. The blasting shall be strictly prohibited. In case inevitable, then controlled techniques in accordance with the *Pakistan Explosive Act* shall be adopted particularly in sliding and potential sliding prone areas.
- XIV. For coarse aggregates like stone and gravel, the proponent shall identify the quarrying sites in consultation with EPA and the department(s) concerned prior to quarrying at said sites.
- XV. The water sprinkling, where required, must be a regular activity to suppress the dust during construction work.
- XVI. The proponent shall rehabilitate all temporarily used sites to their natural conditions affected during the construction phase.
- XVII. 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 level during construction phase of the proposed project. The findings of such quality analysis shall positively be shared with AJK-EPA on regular basis.
- XVIII. The Proponent shall put in place efficient health & safety plan for projects' workers, which should be reinforced by a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan.
- XIX. The proponent shall ensure that no telephone/HTV/LTV lines may be disturbed during the execution of the project. If shifting or relocation of any line or pole is inevitable then, alternate arrangement may be provided to the people of the area before its replacement.
- XX. To avoid intrusion into local's privacy and putting the existing utility services system of project area's communities under stress, the proponent shall install independent arrangements for labor camps. The labor camps should be placed in a manner that it may not disturb the privacy of the local people.
- XXI. As far as possible, unskilled and semi-skilled jobs/employment should be provided to the local people. Preference may also be given to local people for all skilled jobs. Employment record for all positions shall be provided to AJK-EPA positively on quarterly basis.
- XXII. Proponent shall ensure that all public utilities such as water supplies, routes & accesses are not disturbed during the execution of the project. In case replacement or blockage of any public utility is inevitable then,



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alternative may be provided to the people of the area in consultation with the respective agencies under intimation to AJK-EPA.

- XXIII. Proponent shall take special **safety** measures while working close to sensitive installations like Masjids, Madrassas, Schools and Hospitals.
- XXIV. Proponent/contractor shall make sure the safety & security of wildlife and their habitats at the project site and in its environs with the prior consultation and adhering strictly to the guidelines of Wildlife Department.
- XXV. The proponent shall exercise proper cut and fill method during towers foundation work. Moreover cut slopes shall be treated to avoid land destabilization and erosion. The dugout 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.
- XXVI. To ensure the conformity to the national standards for noise, the mechanized plants and machinery must be fitted with noise abatement devices. The sites to install the asphalt plants and other machinery shall be selected in consultation with the AJK-EPA.
- XXVII. Either prior to or during the implementation of the project, if the Agency deems necessary to have supplementary details of information already reported to the AJK-EPA or other than 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.

7. 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.
8. Proponent would be responsible to facilitate AJK-EPA team for any visit for inspection/monitoring, etc.
9. Proponent shall be liable for the correctness and validity of the information furnished in updated EIA by the environmental consultants.
10. Proponent shall provide the copy of this approval and EIA report to the contractor(s) for information and compliance.
11. Any change in the approved project shall be communicated to AJK-EPA and be commenced after obtaining approval in respect thereof.




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12. 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.
13. *The proponent shall be bound to submit an "UNDERTAKING" for acknowledgement that you (proponent) completely understand and shall implement the conditions of approval on Judicial Stamp Paper in accordance with the requirements 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".*
14. This approval is meant for the Construction Phase of the project only. For Operational Phase, the proponent shall have to seek the approval of the Agency additionally.
15. This Approval shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of issue under Section 16 of IEE/EIA Regulation, 2009.
16. This approval shall stand "NULL" and "VOID" if any of the conditions, mentioned herein before, are not fully complied with.
17. This approval can be withdrawn at any time without any prior notice if Agency deems necessary in the best interest of the public and State.


(Malik Muhammad Younas)
Director General, AJK-EPA

A copy for Compliance to:

1. Mr. Tahir Mehmood, Managing Director NTDC Ltd. WAPDA House, Lahore.
2. Mr. Manzoor Ahmed, Project Director EHV, NTDC, House No. 534, Street No. 03, G-9/3, Islamabad.

A copy for Information to:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary (Dev.)/Secretary Environment, GoAJK.
2. The Secretary Forests, Wildlife, Fisheries and AKLASC, GoAJK, Muzaffarabad.
3. The Secretary Agriculture, & Animal Husbandry, GoAJK, Muzaffarabad.
4. The Secretary Electricity, PDO & PPC, GoAJK, Muzaffarabad.
5. Master File.