



# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

CLIMATE CHANGE, FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT  
&  
WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA



No. EPA/EIA/HPP/Artistic/Hydro-II/Swat/24/22-84

Date: 13/05/2024

To

Mr. Rafique Khanani,  
CFO/Company Secretary,  
Plot 3/A, M.A.C.H.S Shahrah-E-Faisal,  
Karachi-75350, Pakistan.  
Contact No. 092-21-38704711-14

Subject:

**DECISION ON ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT OF 55  
MW ARTISTIC II HYDRO POWER PROJECT, KALAM  
DISTRICT SWAT**

Kindly refer to the subject cited above, please find enclosed herewith the Environmental Approval/Decision Note on EIA Report of the subject project for your information and further implementation.

Moreover, **Schedule-X** must be submitted to this Agency within a month on Stamp Paper as an undertaking for the compliance of terms and conditions as mentioned in the Environmental Approval as well as mitigation measures proposed in the EIA Report. (Copy enclosed).

-sd-  
Director General

**Copy for information and necessary action to the;**

- Director (Malakand), EPA Malakand Directorate, Swat.
- AD IT, EPA, HQ, Peshawar.

  
13/05/2024  
Deputy Director (EIA)



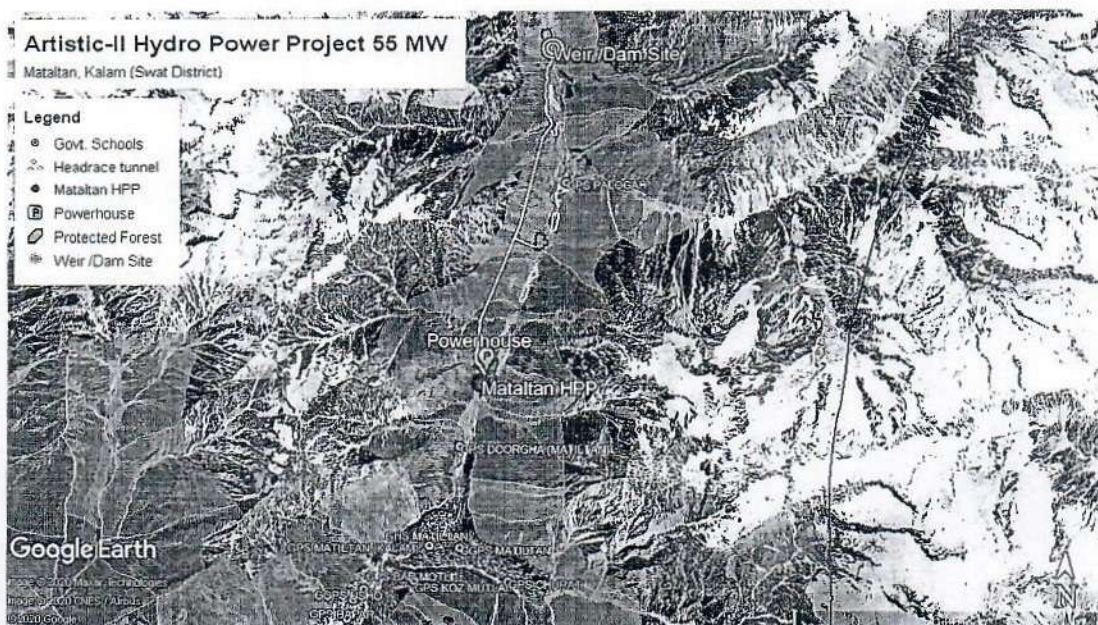
**SCHEDULE-VII**  
**Decision on EIA**

1. **Name, address of proponent:** Mr. Rafique Khanani,  
CFO/Company Secretary,  
Plot 3/A, M.A.C.H.S Shahrah-E-Faisal,  
Karachi-75350, Pakistan.  
Contact No. 092-21-38704711-14.

2. **Description of project.**

The Artistic II Hydropower project is run of the river project to be constructed on Ushu River in District Swat of Northern areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The Weir site is located near village Eshegal and Power house is located upstream of the under construction Matiltan Hydropower Project near Mai Banda village. The project sites are approachable from Kalam, district Swat. It is connected through under construction road from Bahrain to Kalam. The catchment of the Artistic II HPP lies in the upper region of the Ushu River, a tributary / subsystem of a Swat river basin and can be classified as a "high mountain catchment". Snowmelt is the principal source of water in the river. Catchment area of the Ushu River at weir location is estimated to be 454 Sq. km and at Powerhouse location is approximately 600 Sq.Km. The total installed capacity of the Artistic II hydropower project will be 55 MW.

3. **Location of project.** District Swat.  
4. **Date of filing of EIA.** 08/10/2019 (Ref: EPA Diary No.108)  
5. **GPS Coordinates and Map.**





6. After careful review, the Environmental Protection Agency, Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has decided to accord Construction Environmental Approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report of **"55 MW ARTISTIC II HYDRO POWER PROJECT, KALAM DISTRICT SWAT"** in line with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act, 2014 read with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules, 2021 and directives issued by Climate Change Forestry Environment & Wildlife Department, Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa vide Section Officer (Technical) letter No. SO(Tech)/CCFEWD/V-427/2024/PC/2707-09, dated 12/03/2024 followed by a meeting held under the Chairmanship of Director General EPA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 18/03/2024, subject to the following Terms & Conditions;

- a) The proponent shall adopt all precautionary and mitigation measures recommended in the EIA Report as well as replies of the proponent submitted to this Agency and any un-anticipated impacts arising during the Construction and Operation phase of the project.
- b) All the emissions and effluents shall be kept with the NEQS permissible limits.
- c) Arrangement for compensation to the affectees, in case of loss of land, Crops, property, Schools, Water Springs, Water Supply Schemes, Hotels and Masjids shall be finalized before the start of construction. Any money involved in compensation shall be paid to the affectees at market rates as per applicable laws & procedure developed thereunder. A committee shall be constituted ensuring fair representation of locals preferably affectees with properly documented grievance procedure. As far as possible recommendations of a committee comprising of land/house owners and tenants shall be taken into consideration during finalizing the compensation package. All conflicting issues regarding compensation, etc. should be settled before executing/commencing of the project activities and a certificate in this regard shall be generated from the concerned Revenue Department and shall be submitted to this Agency before commencement of the construction activity.
- d) At least one male & one female from every affected household shall be offered employment and training on their willingness on priority basis.
- e) The existing natural water springs, irrigation channels, the water supply scheme/spring, if affected from the Project activities, shall be properly compensated and alternate water supply for the affectees shall be ensured. Detail of the same shall be shared with the Agency before commencement of the construction activity.
- f) The Right of Way (RoW) of the River Swat shall be protected. Moreover, the River shall also be protected from all type of pollution and other adverse impacts from project related activities.
- g) Natural drainage pattern of the area shall not be disturbed.
- h) The contaminated waste water of the tunnels shall be retained in confined pits of proper size ensuring proper treatment, complying with NEQS parameters before final disposal. Analysis reports of the same shall be submitted to this Agency on quarter basis.
- i) A Committee shall be constituted under the supervision of District Administration comprising representatives of the affected villages to look into the issues arising from the Project.
- j) In order to avoid the traffic congestion issues, the management of the project shall formulate Traffic Management Plan and be submitted to this Agency before commencement of Construction activity.



- k) Proper mitigation plan shall be formulated and implemented to avoid soil erosion and land sliding before commencement of Construction activity.
- l) Minimum environmental flow of  $0.7635 \text{ m}^3 / \text{s}$  with 10% extra flow shall be maintained in the downstream. Moreover, the E. Flow shall be enhanced in case adverse impacts are identified on downstream riparian and if recommended by the experts at any stage of the project.
- m) As submitted in the EIA report, proper fish ladder shall be constructed to ensure smooth fish movement.
- n) The project management shall make maximum efforts to operate the dam on preferable option of base load high protection operation mode.
- o) The muck/debris generated from the project shall be properly quantified and dumped at designated sites. Prior approval from concerned Forest Department shall be obtained where the site falls in protected area. Copy of the approval shall be submitted to this Agency prior to the execution of such sites for the aforementioned purposes.
- p) The proponent shall ensure to avoid dumping of debris into down slope or near the river Right of Way (RoW) or water bodies.
- q) All the dumping sites shall be stabilized by proper plantation, bio engineering and engineering techniques. Retention walls of proper size shall be erected along the muck disposal material/sites.
- r) The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) shall be implemented in letter and spirit. Moreover, Fisheries, Forest Department and EPA shall be consulted in improvement/updation of the EMP to mitigate the impact of the project on aquatic life, fauna, flora and surrounding Environment. Cost for environmental monitoring shall be made part of the EMP and the monitoring activities shall be carried out in consultation with this Agency.
- s) Safety zones shall be identified and adequate engineering measures should be provided to overcome fears of the residents regarding project activities to their houses.
- t) The construction/installations shall be carried out keeping in view seismicity of the project area & ensuring implementation of updated building by-laws/codes.
- u) Proper Flood Management Plan shall be prepared and updated after regular intervals for the project site & site specific mitigation measures shall be implemented during floods. Details of the same shall be submitted to this Agency.
- v) Analysis reports of surface water (River Swat/water bodies), ambient air, noise etc. of the project area shall be carried out from KP-EPA certified Laboratory biannually and reports of the same shall be submitted to this Agency.
- w) A sedimentation load study shall be carried out before, during and after the project along with mitigation measures for the control of sedimentation from upstream of the reservoir.
- x) Road/bridges/pathways/Highway to the nearby villages if submerged/damaged due to project activity should be reconstructed/repaired/rehabilitated to another suitable place in consultation with concerned Govt. Department.
- y) In case, the blasting is inevitable, the controlled techniques, in accordance with Pakistan Explosive Act should be adopted in sliding and perspective sliding prone areas.



- z) The camp site, asphalt plants, crush plants & batching plants shall be at least 500 m away from residential area/villages. Separate approvals shall be obtained for these activities under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules, 2021.
- aa) The proponent shall ensure the strict and efficient health and safety measures for the protection of workers and passersby backed by a comprehensive emergency response plan.
- bb) A comprehensive CSR policy shall be formulated keeping in view, the demands/needs of the locals and quantum of the project activity. In this regard, a detailed Social Development Plan (SDP) and Grievances Redress Mechanism (GRM) shall be formulated and the details of the same shall be shared with this Agency before commencement of the construction activity.
- cc) Non-technical jobs shall be provided to local community/villages. Employment record for all positions shall be provided to EPA-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and priority should also be given to locals in technical jobs. Regular trainings shall be arranged for the locals regarding acquiring knowledge of technical jobs.
- dd) Separate approval shall be obtained for establishment of permanent Town/Colony, under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act, 2014 & the prevailing Rules/Regulations in-vogue. For temporary colony, proper treatment plant shall be constructed for municipal effluents treatment to comply with the NEQS parameters before final discharge.
- ee) As per GIS report developed by this Agency on the basis of GPS coordinates provided by the project proponent, the project weir site, powerhouse site, headrace tunnel, falls in the protected Forest area & require clearance from provincial Forest Department. It is recommended that Forest area shall preferably be avoided. In case of un-avoidance, a clearance/NOC from provincial Forest Department shall be obtained prior to commencement of construction activities and the same shall be submitted to this Agency.
- ff) A comprehensive plantation plan with 1:10 plantation, in consultation with Forest Department, shall be submitted to this Agency along with GPS Coordinates of the plantation sites.
- gg) The proponent shall provide guarantee for uninterrupted access to water for local farmers in form of alternative irrigation sources or methods in case the project affects existing water supplies for agriculture.
- hh) Mitigation measures shall be incorporated into the project design to prevent damage during flood events.
- ii) The proponent shall devise strategies and measures that will be implemented to protect the forest and ensure that the project does not facilitate illegal timber activities.
- jj) An Environmentalist along with team shall be hired for the environmental issues redressal.
- kk) The cultural values & social norms of the area shall be followed strictly.
- ll) The Agency shall visit the project site from time to time for compliance checking. The proponent shall facilitate the Agency during the monitoring and shall create no hurdles in this regard.
- mm) This Agency shall suggest any additional mitigation measures/updated technology for the control of Environmental Pollution/degradation at any stage (construction & operational phase) of the project.



- nn) No extension would be permitted in the future in the existing hydropower project without prior approval of the EPA/Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;
- oo) The proponent shall provide the copy of this approval and EIA Report to the contractor for information and compliance.
7. There shall be no legal case pending in the courts against the project.
  8. The Proponent shall be liable for correctness and validity of the information supplied by the environmental consultant.
  9. The proponent shall be liable for compliance of Regulation 13, 14, 16, 17 and 18 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules, 2021 regarding approval, confirmation of compliance, entry, inspections and monitoring.
  10. This approval is accorded by the Agency under section-13 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act, 2014, and shall be valid for commencement of construction for a period of two (02) years from the date of issuance.
  11. **This approval is accorded only for the installation/construction phase of the project and shall be valid only after compliance of the condition 6 (ee).**
  12. The Proponent shall obtain approval for operation of the hydro power project in accordance with the Regulation 13 (2b) and 18 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules, 2021.
  13. Any change in the approved project shall be communicated to EPA, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and shall be commenced after obtaining the approval.
  14. This approval shall be treated as null and void if all or any of the conditions mentioned above is/are not complied with.
  15. This approval shall take effect after necessary approval(s) required under other necessary laws.
  16. The quarterly progress/compliance report of the above conditions shall be submitted to EPA.
  17. In exercise of the power under Section-13 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act, 2014, the undersigned is pleased to approve the EIA Report of **"55 MW ARTISTIC II HYDRO POWER PROJECT, KALAM DISTRICT SWAT"** for construction phase of the project with above mentioned terms and conditions.

Dated: Peshawar \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2024

Tracking/File. No. EPA/EIA/HPP/Artistic/Hydro-II/Swat/24/

Tracking Code:



<https://epakp.gov.pk/environmental-approvals/>

**DIRECTOR GENERAL,**  
EPA, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, SNU Building,  
Khyber Road, Peshawar Cantt.

9/5/24