



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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



No. EPA/EIA/SK Hydro/24/ 352-60

Date: 29/08/2024

To

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO),
SK Hydro Pvt. Limited,
15 Peshawar Block, Fortress Stadium, Lahore Cantt.
Phone No. +(92)4236675595,
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Subject: **OPERATIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE PROJECT; 884 MW SUKI KINARI HPP.**

With reference to your letter Ref. SKHPL/EPA/24/8-279 dated August 1, 2024, followed by visit of this Agency for confirmation of compliance under Rule 15 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules, 2021, in line with the original construction phase approval issued by this Agency vide tracking No. EPA/EIA/SK Hydro/302 dated 30/11/2010, subsequent approval for design change vide letter No. EPA/EIA/HPP/SK/20 /58-61 dated 11/03/2020 and decisions vide letter No. EPA/EIA/HPP /SK/21/1648-49 dated 14/12/2021, followed by 1st and 2nd extension issued vide letter No. EPA/EIA/Dam/SK/HPP/22/4089/90 dated 12/04/2022 and letter No, EPA/EIA/HPP/SK Hydro/24/800-02 dated 09/04/2024 respectively, this Agency has been pleased to allow operational activities of **"884 MW SUKI KINARI HYDROPOWER PROJECT (THE "PROJECT") LOCATED IN KAGHAN VALLEY, DISTRICT MANSEHRA KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA"** subject to following terms and conditions which need to be adopted for Environmental improvement:

- The proponent shall adopt all precautionary and mitigation measures identified in the EIA report and subsequent correspondences with this Agency, as well as, any un-anticipated impacts during the operational phase of the project.
- Operation related wastes differ from construction wastes, typically including waste oils, dredged materials or floating waste collected at intakes screens for which readily accessible and authorized disposal solutions may not be available, Waste management plans in this regard shall be prepared and implemented on the basis of a detailed assessment of the nature and volumes of wastes.
- The hazardous and non-hazardous waste material shall be handed over to EPA KP certified firms for proper and safe disposal and record of the same shall be communicated to this Agency.
- The dumping sites and protection walls may be consulted with Irrigation department in order to avoid any chance of encroachment on Irrigation department property to this extent and submit report of the same to this Agency.
- In addition to the applicable standard procedures/practices, consultation regarding flow of water and protection walls shall be done



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with concerned departments and report of the same shall be shared with this Agency.

- f) Minimum environmental flow (e-flow) of 0.87 cumecs with provision of 10% extra flow shall be maintained in the downstream in case of emergency or as recommended by this Agency. In light of the submitted EIA Report, the project management shall operate the hydropower project on option of base load/ high protection operation run-of-river mode.
- g) The amount of environmental flow (on basis of standards followed by Irrigation Department) may be revised on the basis of findings of the Cumulative Impacts Assessment study of all Hydropower Projects on river Kunhar that is planned to be conducted in near future. Moreover, e-flow meters shall be installed on site and online access of the same shall be provided to EPA-KP as and when required.
- h) The proponent shall be bound to conduct hydrologic and other environment related studies at any stage, as and when required by this Agency.
- i) Analysis of water quality at reservoir and already selected sites/locations in the river reach from dam to powerhouse and one downstream of powerhouse shall be conducted from EPA-KP certified Laboratory on quarterly basis.
- j) 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
- k) The biodiversity management plan shall be implemented. Fisheries, Wildlife, Forest Department and EPA shall be consulted in improvement of the Biodiversity Action Plan to mitigate the impact of the project on aquatic life, fauna, flora and Environment. Moreover, Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) shall be formulated in future if recommended by EPA KP at any stage on the basis of findings during monitoring of the instant project.
- l) The proponent shall, in consultation with and subsequent approval from this Agency, allocate a fixed amount in its CSR budget specifically for environment improvement initiatives.
- m) The proponent shall install large waste collection bins at tourist spots along N 15 road in the project vicinity.
- n) The proponent shall cooperate in planting 5,000-10,000 native plant species annually in collaboration with Forest Department under intimation to this Agency.
- o) The proponent shall provide the copy of this approval to the contractor for information and compliance. Applicable conditions of this approval shall be made part of the contract agreement. However, compliance of this approval shall be the sole responsibility of the proponent of this project.



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- p) Any change in the approved project shall be communicated to EPA, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and shall be commenced after obtaining the approval.
- q) This Agency may suggest any additional mitigation measures /updated technology for the control of environmental pollution /degradation at any stage of the project operations.
- r) 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.
- s) This approval shall be treated as null and void if any or all of the conditions mentioned above and those contained in subsequent correspondences, is/are not complied with.
- t) The proponent shall apply for renewal of the operational approval after every three (03) years.

Moreover, an undertaking in the form of Schedule-X (format enclosed) on stamp paper required under Rule-14 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules, 2021, shall be submitted to this Agency within (30) days, please.

Dated: Peshawar: 030/09/2024

Tracking/File No. EPA/EIA/SK Hydro/24/ 358-60

Tracking Code:



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

Director General

Copy for information to:

- Director (North), EPA Regional Office, Abbottabad with the request to regularly monitor the subject project for compliance of Environmental Approvals.
- Assistant Director (IT), EPA H/Q, Peshawar.