



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGIONAL OFFICE SWAT
Climate Change, Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department
Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



No. No.EPA/ROS/IEE/Daral Khwar-II HPP/Swat/ 321-24

Date: 24 / 02 / 2025

To,

Siddiqsons Hydro limited,
Through its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Office
Address: 27th Floor, Ocean Tower, G-3, Block-9, Scheme # 5, Main Clifton
Road, Karachi.
Contact # +21 35166571-5

Subject: **DECISION ON INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION (IEE)
REPORT OF 9.5 MW DARAL KHWAR-II HYDROPOWER PROJECT**

Kindly refer to the subject cited above and to enclose herewith Environmental Approval/ Decision Note on IEE Report of project titled "**9.5 Mw Daral Khwar-II Hydropower Project**" for your information and further implementation.

Moreover, Schedule-X (Copy enclosed) must be submitted to this office before commencement of construction 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 Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Report, please.

Director (Malakand)

Copy for information to the;

1. Deputy Commissioner, District Swat.
2. P.A to Director General, EPA, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
3. Assistant Director (IT), EPA- Peshawar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for uploading on EPA official website.

Faiz Abad Opposite Chinnar (Jamia Masjid Siddiqui) Saidu Sharif, Swat
Phone No. 0946-920098

SCHEDULE-VIII

Decision on IEE

1. Name, address of Proponent:

Siddiqsons Hydro limited

Through its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Office

Address: 27th Floor, Ocean Tower, G-3, Block-9, Scheme # 5, Main Clifton Road, Karachi.

Contact # +21 35166571-5

2. Description of Project:

The 9.5 MW Daral Khwar-II Hydropower Project (HPP) is a run-of-river project proposed on the Daral Khwar stream, a right-bank tributary of the Swat River, in Bahrain Tehsil, Swat District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Located upstream of the existing Daral Khwar-I HPP, its powerhouse is 300 meters upstream of the Daral Khwar-I weir site. Designed to generate 9.5 MW of renewable energy, the project utilizes a run-of-river system with a design discharge of 12.5 cumecs and a gross head of 90 meters. Key components include a weir, a 1.4 km power conveyance system, a sand trap, a forebay, a penstock, and a powerhouse with three Francis turbines. Water is returned to the stream via a tailrace structure, ensuring minimal environmental disruption.

To maintain ecological balance, the project will release a sufficient environmental flow downstream to sustain aquatic life and meet local water needs. The project will acquire approximately 10 acres of land and is accessible from Bahrain, Swat. The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) is implementing the project through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, ensuring efficient execution and compliance with all applicable environmental, regulatory, and legal requirements. The project aligns with national renewable energy goals, Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and incorporates mitigation measures outlined in the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) report to address potential environmental and social impacts.

3. Location of Project:

The project is located on the Daral Khwar stream, a right-bank tributary of the Swat River, 300 meters upstream of the Daral Khwar-I HPP weir, in Tehsil Bahrain, District Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

GPS Coordinates and GIS Map:

Weir structure : 35.228333°, 72.490802°

Power House : 35.221121°, 72.505206°



4. Date of filing of IEE 27/03/2019 (Ref: EPA Head Office Diary No.65)
06/11/2023 (Revised fee as per EA Rules, 2021, submitted vide deposit slip # 4601413 dated 25-Oct-2023)
5. After a careful review of the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and all comments therein, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Regional Office, Swat, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has decided to grant Construction Phase Environmental Approval for the proposed **9.5 MW Daral Khwar-II Hydropower Project** located on the Daral stream (Khwar), Tehsil Bahrain, District Swat.". This decision is made in accordance with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act, 2014, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules, 2021 (KPEA Rules, 2021). The approval is subject to the following terms and conditions:
- The proponent shall adopt and implement all precautionary and mitigatory measures identified in the IEE report, commitments made in subsequent correspondences, and any measures required to address unanticipated impacts during the construction and operation phases of the project.
 - All effluents, emissions, and noise, if any, must remain within the permissible limits defined by the National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS).
 - The proponent shall strictly adhere to building by-laws and the approved site plan during project implementation to minimize risks in case of any calamity.
 - The proponent must comply with national and provincial **Climate Change Policies**, including the implementation of proposed adaptation and mitigation measures.
 - No nuisance by way of noise, dust, odor, soil, and/or groundwater contamination shall be caused to the public or surrounding environment during the construction and operation of the project.
 - The proponent is obligated to ensure proper disposal of soil, excavated material, and waste at designated sites, avoiding dumping on slopes, riverbanks, water bodies, agricultural land, or near communities. All disposals must strictly adhere to safe waste management practices.
 - Formulate and implement mitigation measures to prevent soil erosion, landslides, and sedimentation in nearby water bodies or adjacent properties. Stabilization measures, including engineering techniques, plantation, and bioengineering, shall be applied as necessary.
 - The Agency has reviewed the E-flow calculation of 0.5 cumecs presented in the IEE report and finds it inadequate. The proponent must maintain an E-flow of at least 10% of the Mean Annual Flow (1.76 cumecs) downstream at all times to sustain the ecosystem, in addition to existing water usage. Flow measurement devices must be installed at the intake to ensure continuous E-flow release, especially during lean periods. Records must be maintained, and biannual compliance reports be submitted to the EPA.
 - The proponent shall design and implement flood protection measures to safeguard the project and surrounding communities from potential flood risks, especially during the monsoon seasons.
 - The proponent shall ensure that all public utilities, including roads, water supply pipes, water courses, phone lines, and natural drainages systems etc., are not disturbed during the construction activities of the project. In cases where interference is unavoidable, suitable alternatives shall be implemented in consultation with and with the consent of the relevant authorities, with intimation to the EPA.
 - The proponent shall ensure the project does not negatively impact the drinking water supply scheme for nearby communities and the Bahrain area passing through the project site. If necessary, alternative arrangements shall be made in consultation with local authorities prior to project implementation.
 - The proponent shall ensure that construction and operation activities do not negatively impact the water quality of the Daral Khwar stream or nearby water bodies. Moreover, ensure river/stream protection from project-related pollution.
 - The proponent shall ensure that no construction or operational activities disturb nearby sensitive sites/receptors, including schools, graveyards, Masjid etc. A buffer zone shall be maintained to prevent noise, dust, or other disturbances. If displacement is

unavoidable, a clear, transparent compensation plan or suitable alternatives, aligned with national &/or international standards, shall be implemented.

- n) Storage and handling of oil, chemicals, or other hazardous materials shall comply with safety standards to prevent spills or contamination. A Spill Prevention and Response Plan shall be developed and implemented by the proponent.
 - o) The proponent shall provide fencing, railing, or equivalent protective measures for all critical structures, including intake structures, forebay, powerhouse, tailrace channels, and manholes, to keep livestock and public access protected and away from the water ponds/channel.
 - p) Conventional blasting is prohibited unless approved by the relevant authority. If blasting or excavation is necessary, vibration-dampening technologies shall be used, and noise barriers shall be installed, along with other measures, around construction sites to ensure ground vibrations and noise levels comply with the NEQS and/or international standards. Alternative techniques shall be preferred wherever feasible.
 - q) If applicable, and upon consultation with the Fishery Department, install fish ladders, fish lifts, or bypass channels if the stream's slope and natural characteristics support such measures. This decision shall be based on site-specific conditions and the department's recommendations, as the stream's features may not typically facilitate fish movement.
 - r) Any identified risks or concerns associated with the hydropower project (health & safety) must be promptly addressed. If necessary, the operations of the project may be temporarily suspended. In the event of incidents or damages caused by the hydropower project, the proponent will be legally liable for compensation and restoration.
 - s) For land acquisition or displacement, if required, the proponent shall develop and implement a Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan (RRP) in compliance with national and international standards and laws, ensuring fair compensation, alternative livelihoods, and settlement for affected families. A detailed action plan for land, crops, trees, and property acquisition, resettlement, and compensation must be prepared in collaboration with the district revenue department. A Conflict Resolution Certificate (CRC) verified by the district administration, shall be submitted to the Agency before construction begins.
 - t) Personal Protective Equipment shall be provided to all workers to ensure health and safety with first aid box for emergency medical use.
 - u) The cultural values and social norms of the area shall be strictly followed.
 - v) Provide local employment in non-technical jobs.
 - w) Water rights of the existing beneficiaries for irrigation, mini/ micro/ pico hydropower and other purposes shall be protected.
 - x) Keeping in view the demands/ needs of local, a comprehensive CSR policy shall be formulated and implemented/support with intimation to this Agency as promised in IEE Report
- A Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) shall be established to address complaints from affected communities. The GRC shall include representatives from the proponent, local communities, and relevant authorities. Notification of the GRC's formation shall be provided to the EPA before the start of construction.
- z) The proponent/contractor shall minimize tree and vegetation removal. If removal is unavoidable, compensatory planting at a 1:10 ratio and re-vegetation of damaged areas must be undertaken. Additionally, a minimum of 100 local plants or trees shall be planted within the project footprint. A separate register must be maintained to record each tree cut and new plantation, ensuring transparency and accountability.
 - aa) If any sub-projects (e.g., access roads, transmission lines, crush plants, or permanent colonies) are developed, they shall be included in the environmental and social management plans, and separate environmental approvals shall be obtained, if applicable, under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Assessment Rules-2021.
 - bb) An emergency response plan shall be developed and implemented to address potential incidents such as floods, spills, or accidents. The plan shall be shared with local authorities and communities and EPA.
 - cc) Prepare a decommissioning and site restoration plan to rehabilitate the project area to its natural state after project completion.
 - dd) An environmentalist along with team shall be hired for proper correspondence with this Agency and effective implementation of Environmental Management Plan of IEE Report.

- ce) A copy of this approval and IEE report shall be provided to the contractor/ operator at project site for information & implementation and a biannual (six months) performance/ compliance report shall be submitted to this Agency.
6. The proponent shall be liable for the correctness and validity of the information provided to the EPA in the IEE report and subsequent correspondences.
 7. EPA will regularly visit the project site. The proponent must facilitate monitoring and comply with additional EPA conditions if required.
 8. The proponent shall be liable for the compliance of Rules 14(2), 15, 18, 19, and 20 of the KPEA Rules, 2021, regarding approval, confirmation of compliance, validity, entry, inspections, and monitoring.
 9. The proponent must inform the EPA office in writing about the construction/ installation start date and project operation for monitoring purposes.
 10. This approval is valid for the commencement of construction for a **period of two (2) years** from the date of issuance. If construction does not commence within this stipulated timeframe, the proponent must apply in writing for an extension of the validity period.
 11. This approval is accorded only for the installation/construction phase of the project. The proponent **will also obtain approval for the operation phase**, as per rules ibid.
 12. Any alteration/expansion of the approved project shall be communicated to the EPA and shall commence only after obtaining approval. Likewise, no other activities should be undertaken other than what is stipulated in the IEE Report.
 13. This approval shall be treated as null and void under Rule 21 of the KPEA Rules, 2021 mentioned above if all or any of the conditions mentioned above are not complied with.
 14. *This approval shall not absolve the proponent of the duty to obtain any other approval or clearance that may be required under any law in force.*
 15. There shall be no pending legal cases against the project.
 16. In exercise of the powers conferred upon the undersigned under Section 13 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act, 2014, the undersigned is pleased to have approved the IEE Report for the construction phase of the project with the above-mentioned terms and conditions.

Dated:


29/02/2025

Tracking/ File. No.EPA/ROS/IEE/Daral Khwar-II HPP/Swat/ 395

Tracking Code:



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


Director (Malakand)/DD(cc)
EPA, Regional office Swat
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa