

**SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORTS OF NEW UMTRU HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT
(2 X 20 MW) IN RI-BHOI DISTRICT, MEGHALAYA ENDING 31ST MAY, 2016**

Sl. No.	Observations	Replies
1.	<p>A map showing three muck dumping sites has been submitted to this Regional Office, however, details like area of proposed muck dumping to be dumped etc. have not specified. It was also observed that in two places earth cutting generated from approach road as well as muck produced from tunnel was dumped on the river bank. Retaining walls should be erected urgently at these two sites to stop washing off to the river and save the rich aquatic resources present in this river.</p>	<p>Strict instruction was given to the Contractors not to dump the excavated earth into the river but to dump in the designated dumping areas identified. A map showing 3 (three) muck planning sites already submitted to the Regional Office has been marked and individual areas of the dumping sites were given alongside. The quantity of muck from all construction sites will be around 2.85 lakh cubic meters out of which more than 25% can be reused for concreting purposes. About 2.26 lakh cubic meters of muck can be accommodated in these three dumping sites. Retaining walls by the side of the River bank on the left side of the approach road to the Intake and Dam have been taken up to protect the earth and tunnel muck from washing off in to the river and the works are completed. However, tunnel muck have been dumped on the left side of the road downstream of flood protection wall for widening the road to make it accessible to service bay of the power house for easy transportation of materials and equipments connected with the power house. Retaining walls along this stretch will be constructed to protect the muck from washing off into the river. Finally, when all the much activities are over, the sites will be properly rolled and a good layer of soil that will be available from the proposed road alignment along the periphery of the Dam will be spread evenly and rolled back.</p>
2.	<p>It was informed by labourers that kerosene oil is used in cooking and purchased by them from local market at their own expense. Project authority should encourage labourers to use electricity and provide them free of cost as stipulated.</p>	<p>Though the Civil Contractor has arranged monthly lunch and dinner to their staff and labourers, yet there are few labourers who declined the system and cook on their own arrangements. However, they are being persuaded to utilize the electricity facilities provided to them.</p>

3.	Artificial afforestation should be started immediately at all sites shown in the map submitted to Regional Office, Shillong on June, 2006.	1600 tree saplings have been planted around the Project area. This is in compliance to the Ministry's letter No. NE/E/IA/ML/HEP/73/2911-12 dt. 21.01.2016. More afforestation will be taken up when all muck dumping activities are over for best results from plantation point of view.
4.	An Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) already exists at the downstream of Umtru River, where several medium/small scale industries are located. Adoption of flood zoning approach should be adopted as per stipulation. An offsite management plan need to be prepared and a copy of the same to be submitted to the office of MOEF, New Delhi.	Flood zoning survey downstream of Umtru dam is being taken up.
5.	Project authorities should prepare a restoration/reclamation plan and submit to the Ministry prior to undertaking the reclamation work for approval.	When all the muck dumping activities are over, the sites will be properly rolled and a good layer of soil to be generated from the new road alignment along the periphery of the dam will be spread evenly and rolled back. However, detailed reclamation plan will be drawn up towards the end of the Project construction with prior approval from the Ministry.
6.	Of the 3 (three) DG sets 320 KVA used, only two sets Consent to Operate were obtained from Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board. Consent to Operate for the remaining one should also be obtained.	Consent to Operate the third 320 KVA DG Set was requested from the concerned Department.
7.	Adoption of flood zoning approach should be adopted as per stipulation (general condition iv)	The New Umtru Hydel Project (2 x 20 MW) is the Run of the River Hydel Project with the live storage of only 2.38 Mcum. The crest of the Dam is raised only 0.71 from the existing crest of 123.29. Being a Run of the River Project with small pondage, all the flood water will naturally flow downstream of the Dam. Hence, there will be practically no change in the flood routing downstream of the Dam.