

September 9, 2004

## Explanation about a received public comment

### 1. Received comment

One comment was received as follows.

*From: "Luis Mejia" <simapro2@verizon.net.do>*

*To: <soka@jaco.co.jp>*

*Sent: Monday, July 05, 2004 5:55 AM*

*Subject: COMMENTS*

*Q1=Luis Mejia*

*Q2=Simapro, S. A*

*Q3=Environmental*

*Q4=Santo Domingo*

*Q5=Dominican Republic*

*Q6=simapro2@verizon.net.do*

*Q7=Subject: Environmental Impact:*

*The project does not include the potentials environmental impacts that can occur with the construction, operation and maintenance of the project. It is necessary to mention the environmental impacts, because the monitoring must be part of the project operation. The environmental impacts are related to the followings aspects:*

- Physic Environment*
- Biological Environment*
- Social-Cultural Environment*
- The Countryside Environment*

*How we are discussing the occupation of a river bed, the quantity of water that is going to be affected must be indicated, the area to intervene, the time of intervention, and also the benefits extracted from this source.*

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## **2. Timing of the received comment**

Above public comment was sent at 5.55 AM of Dominican time of July 05, 2004 and this means 9.55 AM of GMT. Therefore, this comment was sent 9.55 hours delayed after the end of 30days public comment period for the e7 Bhutan project.

Considering above, this is not an official public comment but should be taken as a reference comment.

However, JACO considers that the comments are pointing out important items to be implemented to the hydroelectric generation project.

Based on the review of the PDD and related documents, also by interviews to the e7 representatives, JACO recognizes that sufficient assessment and measures had already been taken to each point of public comments as shown in the following item 3.

## **3. Measures taken for the potential environmental impacts**

### **3.1 Environmental assessment**

In the PDD, it is briefly stated that “Environmental assessment has already been implemented • • ”

This Environmental assessment was conducted at the feasibility study stage according to “Royal Government of Bhutan, Environmental Assessment Act 2000” and related regulations.

The assessment report of September 2003 covers following items;

- Description of Existing Environment
  - Study Zone
  - Natural Components
  - Socioeconomic Components
- Potential Source of Impacts
  - During the Construction Phase
  - During the Operation Phase
- Environment Management Plan
  - Mitigation Measures Proposed During the Construction Phase
  - Mitigation Measures During the Operation Phase
  - Monitoring Program
  - Health and Safety

### **3.2 Environmental Clearance Measures**

(1) Measures during construction work

Based on above report, NEC (National Environment Commission) sent a letter “Pilot CDM project at Chendebji” (Refer to Annex 3 of the PDD).

As for each subject listed in this letter of Annex 3, measures have been taken by e7 as shown in the “EIA Clearance condition and the mitigation measures included in the Bidding Document of the e7bhutan project” (Refer to Appendix 7 of this validation report.)

These measures were agreed between Government of Bhutan and e7.

(2) Measures during operation and maintenance

The water for this power plant is not used to drinking water or other use.

The hydropower generation facility is small size but suitable care is taken for the design and location of powerhouse, piping etc. to minimize the influence to landscape.

As for social-cultural environment, the e7 Bhutan project is expected in promoting villager's health and education, economic development, etc.

About the occupation of riverbed, study was conducted for fishes in the Chendebji River. Only the presence of brown trout was confirmed and it is expected that the impact to the brown trout is small considering the quantity of water in the spawning season.

(3) Monitoring

In addition to the monitoring items directly linked for CDM, e7 is planning to implement the following activities as monitoring periodically during the first 2 years after the construction of the power station.

- Analysis of socio economic condition of the villagers after the electrification
- Analysis of the impact of the flow reduction upon the presence of river fishes (brown trout)

#### **4. JACO's Opinion**

Suitable environmental assessment had been conducted at the feasibility study and necessary measures including monitoring are considered and reflected into the project. This complies with the requirements of UNFCCC criteria and the project will contribute to the sustainable development of the district.