

Environmental Monitoring Report

Semestral Report for July - December 2015

UZB: Samarkand Solar Power Project

Prepared by Joint Stock Company Uzbekenergo for the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Asian Development Bank.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
DC	Design Consultant
DREP	Division of Resettlement and Environmental Protection
EA	Executing Agency
EARF	Environmental Assessment and Review Framework
EHS	Environmental Health & Safety
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIP	Environmental Impact Permit
EMP/ SSEMP	Environmental Management Plan/ Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan
ES/ SES	Environmental Specialist/ Senior Environmental Specialist
GRC	Grievance Redress Committee
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
USIIP	Urban Sector Improvement Investment Program
IA	Implementing Agency
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
SC	Supervision Consultant

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PART I – INTRODUCTION

1.1 Construction activities and project progress during the previous 6 months

General information about the program/Subprojects

1. The present Bi-annual Environmental Monitoring Report covers July-December 2015 time period.
2. The proposed Samarkand Solar Power Project (the Project) aims to increase renewable energy generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in Uzbekistan. The Project has three main components: (i) construction of a 100 megawatt (MW) grid-connected crystalline photovoltaic (PV) power plant with single axis tracking system; (ii) institutional capacity building on solar energy, and (iii) project management and supervision support. The Project is classified as category B.
3. The Project is aligned with ADB's Strategy 2020 and with a key pillar of the Energy Policy 2009. The Project directly supports Uzbekistan clean energy and energy security targets as prioritized under the ADB Uzbekistan Country Partnership Strategy for 2012-2016 and is identified in the ADB's Uzbekistan Country Operations Business Plan 2012-2014. The proposed Project will be the first of its kind and scale in Central Asia and will bring Uzbekistan closer to its vision of becoming the region's solar technology and knowledge hub.
4. The main objectives of construction of Solar PV station in Samarkand Region are as follows:
 - Use of solar energy for electricity production in Uzbekistan in the long term;
 - Increase the stability of the power system;
 - Improve the reliability of electricity supply in South-Western part of the system;
 - Increasing the efficiency and reliability of power supply of the national economy and the population of Samarkand region.
5. The Project is implementing in accordance with Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 1, 2013 № 4512 «On measures for further development of alternative energy resources». The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed on August 2, 2013 between Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Republic of Uzbekistan. On 4th of June the Feasibility study of the Project was approved by Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan PP №-2183.
6. According to the approved feasibility study dated 04/07/2014 total project cost is 233,123,000 USD. The Government of Uzbekistan has requested ADB to finance the procurement of materials in the amount of \$ 110.0 million USD. State Fund for Reconstruction and Development of Uzbekistan will take a part in financing the project in the amount of \$ 110.0 million USD. "Uzbekenergo" will finance from its own funds the purchase of local materials, installation, delivery and other construction work in the amount of \$ 13,123,000 USD. In addition, the Government will provide \$ 42.7 million USD. (Equivalent) through taxes and fees.
7. In accordance with the feasibility study for the construction of PV station picked a total area of 404 hectares (254 hectares to 150 hectares in Pstdargom and Nurabad areas). PV station is located 13 km south-west and north of Samarkand from the main road A-378 Samarkand-Karshi.
8. The Project is classified as category B.

9. At present the evaluation of submitted financial proposals under the process.

Construction activities and project progress during the previous 6 months

10. Performed alignment and gravel backfilling for construction of new 6,5 km road; For the construction of 3,5 km 220 kV ETL prepared 44 enforced concrete supports, and 28 out of them were installed, 38 ton of cable were bought; For the construction of fence along the perimeter of the area prepared 2 353 pcs. of metallic columns, 2 100 out of them were installed, 2 353 grid panels were prepared and 1 850 pcs out of them were installed; Excavation work for the construction of horizontal tank for water treatment is commenced. At present the evaluation of submitted financial proposals under the process.

11. Project progress for the reporting period is 1% in percentage.

1.2 Changes in Project Organization and Environmental Management Team

12. The initiator of the project is Uzbekenergo, Executive Agency. During the reporting period the management of PMU has been changed, Rustam Pulatov is resigned and Shukhrat Isaev became as acting PMU manager:

13. During the reporting period has been signed the contract with supervision consultants Intec Gopa GmbH (Germany). The supervision consulting firm to be engaged will supervise and monitor the project implementation including the construction and commissioning works, and build institutional capacity of Uzbekenergo and other solar stakeholders including relevant solar and scientific research institutes.

14. Design Consultant (DC) is responsible for developing and incorporation of mitigation measures in design and construction.

15. PIU environmental specialist is Jakhongir Siddikov. The Supervision Consultant's environmental specialist is Rubi Socorro Arico (international) and Galina Petraeva (national). International or national environmental specialist of CC will be hired after selecting the Contractor.

16. Relationships with Contractors, Owner, Lender, etc

17. The team has constant communication with the Supervision Consultant, the Contractor is not hired yet.

18. SC is responsible for environmental capacity building, monitoring of implementation of SEMP's and for developing quarterly reports; Monitor safeguards and EMP, prepare the updated IEE which meets both the Government's requirements and ADB's Environmental Assessment Guidelines and ensure training of client counterpart staff through on-the job-training and classroom training programs.

19. ADB oversees project sites regularly and gives clear instructions for the project sites improvements with regard to environmental safeguards.

PART II - ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

20. According to the EIA (environmental impact assessment) baseline data regarding water, air, soil, flora and fauna are available, but since the construction activities has not yet started, the monitoring is not carried out.
21. Permanent environmental monitoring will start immediately after the commencement of the civil works

PART III – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

3.1 The Environmental Management System, site-specific environmental management plan (SSEMP) and work plans

22. SSEMP for the “Samarkand Solar Power Project” will be prepared by the construction company before commencement of civil works.

3.2 Site Inspections and Audit

23. Not yet applicable.

3.3 Non-Compliance Notices

24. Not yet applicable.

3.4 Corrective Action Plans

25. Not yet applicable.

3.5 Actions taken to reflect the findings of ADB mission carried out on 7-9 October 2015

26. Not yet applicable.

3.6 Consultations and Complaints

Public Awareness Activities:

27. No public awareness activities were carried out projects during the period of July-December 2015.

Grievance redresses mechanism (GRM)

28. A project-specific grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will be established by the EA to provide a transparent mechanism to voice and resolve environmental concerns linked to the project. The EA will ensure that grievances and complaints are addressed in a timely and satisfactory manner to avoid any potential delays in the establishment of the project.
29. Should there be any grievance for the Local people especially regarding any adverse and material harm caused by the Project either during construction or operation stage of the project, they can approach Uzbekenergo office or local administration. Uzbekenergo will address the problem as soon as possible after receiving the complaint. Uzbekenergo will depute a designated officer who is responsible for obtaining the information from the complainant to identify source of problem and

verify the complaint. Once verification is carried out that the problem is due to activities of the solar power plant then he/she will initiate corrective actions to address the problem and the same will be recorded and updated to Uzbekenergo.

30. Records will be kept by the PIU of all grievances received including contact details of AP, date the complaint was received, nature of grievance, agreed remedial / corrective action and the date this was implemented, and the final outcome in Complaints Log Book kept at the PIU office and at construction site.

PART IV – ACTION PLAN FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

4.1 Action Plan for the next period

- Planning to conduct Post-qualification process of the Bidders which are considered as technically responsive (till 01 June, 2016).
- Establishment of Grievance Redress Mechanism (During April-June 2016).

ANNEXES:

ANNEX A: Photos of Site Visits

Fig.1 – The access road to the plant



Fig.2 – The building site



Fig.3 – Channel “Sazagan”



Fig.4 - The access road from another angle



Fig.5 – The building site



Fig.2 – The map of area (satellite picture)

