

SINDH IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE AUTHORITY (SIDA)
Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project-I

Report on Public Hearing of EIA Report for Raineer Canal Project
Held on 14th October-2010, at Hotel Inter Pak Inn-Sukkur



By

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Report on Public Hearing of EIA Report for Rainee Canal Project

A one day hearing on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was held at Hotel Inter Pak Sukkur on 14th October, 2010. The hearing was organized by Environmental Protection Agency Govt. of Sindh on EIA Report of Rainee Canal Project. Hearing was attended by different stakeholders, line agencies and relevant organizations such as EMU-SIDA, WAPDA, Sindh Wildlife and Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur- Sindh.

Proceedings:

The Sessions were started at 11.00 am, and presided over by Mr. Waqar Phulpoto (Director EPA- Sindh. Mr. Abdul Rasheed Memon (Chief Engineer & PD- Rainee Canal Project) introduced the main activities of the project. Mr. Raja (Representative for the consultants M/S Barqaab Consultants- Pvt. Ltd. Lahore) presented the EIA Report of Rainee Canal Project.

After the presentation of report discussions and questions answer session held.

Question Answer Section:

Following were the main/ key concerns of stakeholders, community and other Concerned organizations.

1. What kind of methodology for land acquisition & payments was used for project affectees?
2. The Revenue Department was involved for valuation and payments to affectee of this project.
3. The distance in between GFC and Rainee Canal Head Regulators is approximately 200 to 300 feet only; it can affect the normal discharge flow of GFC so how the flow of GFC will be maintained in future?
4. The Rainee Canal is a non-perennial canal in other words it would be said as Flood Canal, when the water level of the Guddu Barrage will reach at 250000 (two lac fifty thousand) cusecs then the canal will supplied with 5000 (five thousand) cusecs, and in future its discharge capacity will be increased till 10000 (ten thousand) during the high floods, for this at RD 80+...., a escape named Nara Escape have to be built.

Report on Public Hearing of EIA Report for Rainee Canal Project

5. But if like the floods just this year (2010), in future will protect the River Indus System by above said Nara Escape especially Guddu and Sukkur Barrages within only 10000 cusecs discharge?
6. No there is no any other option to protect the systems from the supper floods, further the irrigation department can explain.
7. Only social side for its beneficiaries are discussed in EIA but physical and biological components are not taken under consideration, in fact, during the construction work biodiversity exactly had to be disturbed with geo-physical changes, as removal of sand dunes, borrow pits, tree and vegetation clearance. It means the natural habitat was disturbed. For all the aspects there would be an EMP to minimize the adverse impact and to rehabilitate ecosystem of the affected area. But these things are entirely kept in corner, why?
8. How it is possible that only 04 to 05 species of flora and fauna are identified by the consultant Environmental team from this area. On other hand Government of Sindh and Pakistan had announced this area as **Nara Game Reserve?**
9. I have worked on the flora and fauna of the Rainee Canal area and identified lot of variety of said biodiversity and I challenge that there are a lot of bio-diversity.

Conclusion Session/ Recommendations

At the end of hearing Director SEPA concluded and said that EIA Report for Rainee Canal done by M/S Barqaab Consultants- Pvt. Ltd. Lahore is not addressing the expected environmental and social issues of the project. Even the client and consultant could not satisfy stakeholders on methodology of EIA and its technical flaws. Further he added that as Environmental Specialist of SIDA and Professor Dr. Ghulam Raza Bhatti (S.A.L. University Khairpur) indicated technical faults and gaps in report and recommended to undertake the assessment again, till the flaws and faults are not removed or cured, the report will not get approved. Also the EPA will ask about the team which was deployed from the consultant's side and details with academic qualifications and experience of that

Report on Public Hearing of EIA Report for Rainee Canal Project

team are required from M/S Barqaab Consultants- Pvt. Ltd. Lahore immediately. And it is sorry to say that consultant companies mostly give very little attention to environmental studies although a huge portion of funds are fixed for this kind of studies in every project.