

Mekong River Commission

Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement

Form/Format for Reply to Prior Consultation

1. Replying state: Kingdom of Thailand

2. Date of Reply: 22 January 2015

3. Replying Ministry/Agency:

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4. Contact person/facilitator:

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5. Name of the proposed use/project:

The Don Sahong Hydropower Project

6. Location of the proposed use:

On the Hou Sahong channel of the Mekong River approximately 2 km. upstream
(north) of the Lao-Cambodia border

7. Nature

7. Nature of the proposed use:

Intra-basin use in the part of the mainstream during wet and dry season

8. Date of receipt of the documents

8 July, 2014

9. Reply to Proposed Use

In response to the Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA), the Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat (TNMCS) organized six National information Sharing Meetings on the Don Sahong Hydropower Project in eight provinces situated along the Mekong River during 10 November 2014 – 7 January 2015. Moreover, the finalized meeting was also held in Bangkok on 7 January 2015. The followings are the main concerns over the Don Sahong Hydropower Project which were raised during the meetings:

9.1 The participants are of the views that data and information provided are insufficient to assess the potential transboundary impacts of the Don Sahong Hydropower Project to the Mekong river ecological system, such as flow regime, fisheries ecology, fish migration, seasonal crop along the river bank, tourism, river bank erosion, local economy and livelihood of Thai people. Additional data and information are, thus, required for further consideration and assessment of both positive and negative impacts in order to develop the appropriate mitigation measures.

9.2 Concerning the issues of fisheries ecology and fish migration, the Thai stakeholders are of the view that (1) the construction of the dam at the Don Sahong Hydropower Project outlet could block the pathway of local fish migration up and downstream, resulting in significant decrease of the large number of seasonal migratory fishes in the upstream areas which will impose a threat to Thai local fisheries as well as food security of the region, and

(2) the proposed

(2) the proposed fish friendly turbine introduced by the developer has not been scientifically proven to cure the problem. It neither convinces the local people that their concerns on impacts to fisheries and the amount of fishes in the Mekong River would be covered by this technology. Lesson learned and experience sharing from other countries on this technology is essential for further and better justification.

9.3 Considering magnitude of the Project and its location which situated in the biodiversity rich and environmentally sensitive area near the border line of Lao PDR and Cambodia, the Thai stakeholders expressed their views that the study reports did not sufficiently address an issue of transboundary impact assessment. Therefore, it is highly recommended that such study should be properly conducted and disseminated to the public.

9.4 Regarding the possible damage that might be caused by the Don Sahong Hydropower Project on the river ecosystem and livelihood of local people, the public deeply expressed their concern on the compensation of such damages, if occurred. In this connection, the relevant authorities responsible for the compensation should be clearly identified.

9.5 The Thai stakeholders suggested that representatives from concerned authorities of Lao PDR should be invited to join the Thai national prior consultation. It would be the good opportunity for Lao PDR to provide further information and clarify the points of concerns raised by Thai stakeholders regarding the Don Sahong Hydropower Project.

9.6 With the aforementioned information and concerns, timeframe of PNPCA is therefore proposed to be extended for 6 more months beyond the original timeframe.