

Public Consultation – Construction & Operation of Kaiha 2 Hydropower Project in Lofa County

Meeting: Construction & Operation of Kaiha 2 Hydropower Project in Lofa County

Date: March 15, 2016

Venue: Yandisu - LPMC Town (Voinjama District)

Attendants:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Kollie Jacob		Assistant town chief	0776239177
Korpo Lusu			
Roland Joejoe			0776239269
Karmah Dorbor		Community member	
Weedor Jallah		Assistant Chair Lady	
Korpo Ben			0777433484
Michael Flomo			0777461630
Jack F. Koiyan	Yandisu public school	Teacher	0777359767
Lassana B. Massaley		Student	
Sonnie Jacob		Community Member	
Domawey Jallah			
Mamie Willfallah			
Weedor Yella			
Guwor Sumo	Kintoma community	Student	
Jacob Brown		Small Chief	0775792645
David Jallah			
Corpo Akoi		Chair Lady	0776239280
Abraham Bility	Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA)	Social Development Officer	0886621340
Williette T. Clarke	Earthtime	Administrative Assistant	0880556677 0777399999
Jorn Stave	Multiconsult	ESIA Team Leader	0888392613
Basma Shamas	Earthtime	Environmental Consultant	0888300766

Summary:

A meeting was held at Yandisu – LPMC Town (Voinjama district, Lofa County) between some community members including the assistant town chief, chair lady and assistant chair lady, and representatives of Liberia’s Rural & Renewable Energy Agency (RREA), Multiconsult (project engineers and environmental consultant) and Earthtime (environmental consultant) to present and discuss the construction and operation of a mini hydropower station at Kaiha 2 location in Lofa County. The discussion included a brief presentation of the project location and components as well as the probable environmental and social impacts that might arise from the project and the concerns and opinions that the

community might have regarding the project. The presentation and discussion was translated by locals to local dialects to ensure that all the attendees are well informed.

Presentation:

Abraham Bility (RREA) and Jorn Stave (ESIA Team Leader) introduced the project and provided a brief description of the project component and location, the steps that were done so far to assess and choose the location, the towns that might benefit from the current and probable environmental and social impacts arising from project activities.

Questions and Concerns Session:

The purpose of this section is to focus on the questions, concerns and comments the community members have on the different aspects of the project.

The community members welcomed the team and expressed their happiness regarding this project and the development that it will bring to the area if implemented. They also expressed their interest in receiving electricity especially that it will allow students to have lights to study and will allow the businesses to thrive.

The following questions were raised and discussed during the meeting:

- **The procedure that the community members should follow to receive electricity:**
Jorn Stave (ESIA Team Leader) explained the technical part of the procedure where a transformer would be installed along the transmission line section passing through the town, to enable the distribution of electricity to the community. A distribution line, which is beyond the scope of this project but might be covered under different smaller scale projects that might run in parallel, should be installed.
Abraham Bility (RREA Representative) explained that current will come at a cost and that the receivers would be paying for the electricity they will use ; however the cost would be lower than the electricity generated using fuel oil.
- **Employment opportunities during the project construction phase:**
The community members asked if they will be benefiting from the project during construction phase. The team explained that skilled and semi-skilled workers from the local community will be hired where and when possible.
- **Structures, crops and cultural sites along the transmission line route:**
The community members confirmed that they do not have traditional sites or crops along the road (which will be the main proposed route for transmission line). The only crops along the road are the LPMCs' Palm trees. These crops are not being harvested and no employees for LPMC are present on site. The community members also said that there are no current land conflicts along the road; however the town chief should be consulted regarding these issues when the project gets to the implementation phase.

The ESIA team explained that the transmission line route will be selected carefully to avoid crossing structures which will reduce the cost of resettlement and make the project more feasible. The route will be mainly adjacent to the main road and within its right of way; however, if structures are in close proximity to the main road, the transmission line route might be diverted as much as possible to a location where it does not cross any structure.