

Kohima Tour Report

By Mr. Pritam Kapur, Team Leader, 21st to 24th August 2013

A visit was made to Kohima by the team Leader and the Water Supply & Sanitation Expert of PMMC. The objectives of the visit were:

- a) To inspect the progress of the package of replacement of 18 reservoirs and refurbishment of Water Treatment Plant under Tr-I.
- b) Visit the SWM site to inspect progress and issues in speedy progress of the construction of landfill site under Tr-I.
- c) To discuss the progress of implementation of the Tr-II project on WS Network.
- d) To discuss other issues including that of finance

The visit coincided with the review meeting being held by SIPMIU with the Contractors of Tr-I packages. We participated in the meeting with SWM contractors and DSMC on 22nd August 2013.

1. Key Issues:

- Delay in release of funds from the State Government to SIPMIU had resulted in non-payment of contractor's bills and slowing down of execution of works. Consequent to a letter written by Secretary UD to the CS of Nagaland, a sum of about Rs 6.5 cr was released to SIPMIU and the same has been used to clear the outstanding bills. However a sum of about Rs 2.75 cr is still to be released.
- Another development that has come to light is that the execution of the project for SWM landfill of about Rs 40 cr is going slow as the contractor M/s Ramky Enviro is facing financial problems and is unable to pay the advances required for ordering equipment, hence critical components like Compost plant are getting delayed. Ramky has requested for an advance of Rs 4.00 cr. Under the circumstances, SIPMIU may seek permission from its empowered committee for making this contract variation, provided they are able to get BG or other assurance regarding safety of money.
- During the site visit to the landfill site, it was pointed out that due to construction/widening of the road, there were several landslides during the monsoon. Hence it is necessary that proper drainage arrangements and proper retaining walls be provided. These and some other items, which were not envisaged in the original contract will increase the cost by about Rs 6 cr. SIPMIU has been advised to put up a variation proposal to MoUD, which will have to be authorized by MoUD and ADB, before additional funds can be made available.

2. **Water Supply Project:** Overall, the project that had been progressing at a very slow pace is showing some improvement. Except for 3 tanks, where site is still a problem, rest of the work may be completed by end December 2013. The original date of completion was March 2013.

1. Replacement of 18 tanks:

- Construction of 4 tanks completed. Hydraulic testing to be done. Handing over to PHED expected September 2013
- 11 other tanks are in various stages of completion. Estimated completion by December 2013.
- The site for the 3 balance tanks is still to be hand

due to various problems with the site.

2. **Refurbishment of the Water Treatment Plant:**
Most of the equipment required for the refurbishing including the chlorinators has been received. Installation is in progress. Application for the additional power has been made. The civil work including repair of backwash tank has been completed. Target for completion is 31st December 2013.

3. **Solid Waste Management**-Construction of sanitary Landfill Site: Valued at around Rs 40 cr, this is the largest project under Tr-I and has been awarded to M/s Ramky Enviro Ltd. The project was awarded in October 2011 and its duration was 2 years. The status of its execution is as follows:

1. The grading of site for construction of the one cell for Landfill Site is still to be completed. This work is going on for the last 6 months and excavation work is still incomplete. The retaining wall work has also not been completed.
2. The work on the compost plant and its floor has yet to be started. The shed is fairly large (3500 sq m or nearly one acre) and its flooring is to be done with PCC/RCC. Issues about design of the building and columns are still under discussion. The Prefabricated structure and the compost plant machinery is still to be ordered.
3. The approach road, various buildings are in different stages of completion. If retaining walls are required for stabilizing the soil by roadside (as was explained to us), the same may take another 6-9 months.
4. The design of leachate plant is still to be finalized and ordered. The proposed plant is a three-stage treatment plant including a RO plant. We witnessed a presentation made by Ramky to SIPMIU on the subject. The design with RO etc. appeared quite sophisticated. There were some doubts whether the KMC who will be the operators of the plant will be able to maintain and operate the same. The cost of running was also causing concern to officials of KMC who were present. It is suggested that SIPMIU may take advice of CPHEEO on the design aspects before finalizing the same.
5. Overall, work is going slow and deadlines agreed in the meetings are rarely adhered to. As mentioned earlier, one of the reasons appears to be cash flow problems that the contractor is experiencing. Be as it may, if work has to be hastened the current work force of 40 workers need to be increased to at least 100 persons. Materials for civil work have to be provided on time at the site. SIPMIU may have to take some proactive steps to solve the liquidity problems, while safeguarding its interest.

4. **Water Supply Network Tr-II:** The package has been awarded to M/s Tantia Construction in February 2013. However mobilization advance has been paid only recently, that too only 5%. We met the contractor, who assured us that material has been ordered and work on ground is expected to start by September 2013.

Action Points:

1. SIPMIU to continue follow up with the State Government for prompt release of balance amount of around Rs 2.75 cr as also further reimbursements that are released from MoUD.
2. Initiate action to process the request for cash advance by M/s Ramky Enviro, the contractors for SWM project, while ensuring the safety of funds advanced. Empowered Committee of the State may be consulted.
3. The proposal for additional works to be carried out under SWM may be prepared and submitted to MoUD for vetting and subsequent authorization by both MoUD and ADB.
4. The design of the leachate treatment plant may be sent to MoUD for vetting by CPHEEO.
5. The comments of the WS&S engineer regarding proper sizing of the supply mains for ultimate population should be addressed. Similarly, his comments regarding poor workmanship and rectification of the concrete platform constructed at WTP need to be addressed.

(Pritam Kapur)
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