

Kohima Tour Report (13th - 16th November 2013)

By Mr. A.K. Sharma, Solid Waste Management Expert, PMMC

A Objectives of the visit

- To visit the SWM site, identify bottlenecks and advice on corrective action
- To discuss the project cost variation proposals submitted by SIPMIUs
- To review the revised design of leachette treatment plant

Meeting was held on 14th Nov. in the office of SIPMIU & status of the project was discussed with of SIPMIU & DSMC representatives.

- Date of start of this project is 4-2-2012 with completion period of 24 months. The physical progress till October 2013 is 36.62% against 52.76% scheduled. The expected date of completion is 30-6-2014.
- Work expenditure till October 2013 is 14.53 cr against contract amount of 39.11cr. i.e 37.15% financial progress against 72.41% elapsed time.
- The progress is slow because of financial difficulty of the contractor who is finding it difficult to make the advance payment required for ordering/taking delivery of items like the compost plant and its prefabricated building. All bills of the contractor have been paid.
- The contractor has placed order for the machinery of the compost plant on M/s Alpha therm, manufacturing has been completed in the factory at Delhi & inspection by TPI agency, RITES has been done. It is expected to reach the site in 20 days. SIPMIU has been advised to synchronize its arrival with the completion of the compost prefab building.
- The building sheds for the compost plant & garages comprise of prefabricated structures for which order has been placed on M/s Glair Infrastructure in Hapur. However fabrication has not started for want of payment.
- During the meeting with the Contractors in August 2013, it had been pointed out that the design of leachette treatment plant was over sophisticated and power intensive with RO plant. The DSMC was to examine other options and decide. Although nearly 3 months have passed, the DSMC is still investigating. At this rate the finalization of the design and its installation may become the critical path. SIPMIU should emphasize the urgency to DSMC.
- Various other layout designs are still to be finalized although the work started more than 18 months ago. SIPMIU was advised to ask DSMC to send their design engineers from Bangalore to Ramky Hyderabad and finalize all designs.

B Progress review

The work site was visited on 15th Nov. along with the Team leader DSMC & engineers of SIPMIU & the construction agency, M/S Ramky Enviro Engineers Ltd.

- The administrative office building, weigh bridge, DG set room, toilet block are almost complete. Foundations of the primary & secondary garage structures & the compost plant have been laid. The superstructure is prefabricated one which is delayed due to financial problems as explained above.

- Site grading is 80% complete. For the approach road, the third layer of sub base with stone aggregate is in progress. Final finishing with bituminous layer will be done later. 370 m length of RCC retaining wall out of 400 m has been completed.
- Ground level water reservoir & tube well have been completed, but yield test of tube well, installation of pump & laying of pipes is to be done.
- Advance of Rs 50 lakhs has been given to the State Electricity Board 3 months ago for power supply. However, no work has started. DSMC should discuss with power department and give a schedule agreed with the power department.

C Cost Variation Proposals for SWM site:

- SIPMIU has submitted cost variation proposals for the SWM site as below:
 - 3 additional retaining walls where the slopes have been found to be unstable during the monsoon. The additional cost is estimated at Rs 3.40 cr. SIPMIU to submit detailed design and cost for approval.
 - Additional equipment for Compost plant comprising of trommel and plastic baling plant. These are not included in the original contract. Cost is estimated at Rs 1.35 cr. Cost appears to be high. In Shillong the baling plant is costed at Rs 18 lakhs vs Rs 85 lakhs in Kohima. This may be investigated and the proposal should include quotes from suppliers.
 - Box culvert for storm water drainage costed at Rs 86 lakhs. As per contract the storm drainage is part of the contractor's scope of work. SIPMIU to check and justify why this is an extra item.

D Action points

- SIPMIU to put a deadline for finalizing the designs including that of leachette plant. It should not extend beyond January 2014.
- The proposal for additional advance to the contractor should be processed quickly after receiving additional bank guarantee and other safeguards committed by SIPMIU. This will facilitate advances to compost plant suppliers by Ramky.
- DSMC engineers should visit the fabricators of structure and machinery of compost plant to verify the claims of the contractor and to satisfy themselves about the capability of the suppliers and progress so far.
- SIPMIU to submit detailed proposals for (additional) cost variations with quotations from machinery suppliers where necessary. These will be vetted by MoUD before being cleared.
- The work is much behind schedule, including the construction of the landfill cell. This being the dry season, SIPMIU should submit the work plan for the next 6 months to MoUD and maintain a rigorous follow up.

A.K. Sharma
26th November 2013