

Minutes of the special meeting held to discuss the progress achieved by CEB with the Dr. Carmela Centeno (Project Manager)

Venue: Ceylon Electricity Board

Date: July 24, 2019

Time: 9.30 am

Participants

Mr. H.M.A. Herath Additional General Manager (CEB)

Dr. Ms. Carmela Centeno Project Manager (UNIDO)

Mr. S.M. Werahera Deputy Director (MMDE)

Mrs. Gangani Champika Software Engineer (CEB)

MS. C.D. Hettiarachchi Manager (CEB)

Mr. G. Dileepa Waduge Software Engineer (CEB)

Mr. W.K.B.T.W. Fernando Chief Engineer (CEB)

Mr. Krishantha Hemarathne CE (ATATE) (CEB)

Mr. Chandima Gunasena Project Assistant (UNIDO)

Present situation

Welcoming the participants Assistant General Manager Mr. Herath reported that they were able to complete nearly 35 percent. According to latest test results 68 out of 383 transformers are PCB contaminated.

Further, he mentioned that in the generation section, hydro transformers are 100 percent completed and there are 60 thermal transformers to be tested. In the transmission sector still 50 transformers have to be tested. Mr. Mahinda requested to start the disposal with the Generation and transmission sectors.

Indoor transformers in distribution section

According to the details provided by Mr. Herath, number of transformers are very high in the distribution section and they are small in size even with low PCB concentration. In contrast where Colombo and Jaffna have indoor transformers that may contain higher PCB concentrations. Most of these indoor transformers came during 1970s from France and Canada. They are containing pyrroline which is pure PCB and mentioned in the name plate and therefore easy to identify.

Fund allocation for the disposal activities and diversification of funds for the welding sector

Dr. Carmela/Project Manager UNIDO highlighted that initial agreement with the GEF is to dispose 1000 Metric tons of waste and equipment. The financial allocated was about US\$ 2.6 Million and it is now decreased to US\$ 2.3 Million due to diversion of funds to the welding sector disposal activities.

According to Dr. Carmela cost of export of 1000 MT will be US\$ 6 Million at a rate of US\$ 6 per Kilogram. This rate includes the weight of PCB oil and also the equipment. As the project fund does not sufficient to cover the disposal of all the equipment, importance of developing a PCB action plan for CEB was highlighted by Dr. Carmela/Project Manager UNIDO and all participants agreed for the proposal.

Transformers with pure PCBs and special issues confronted by the CEB

Mr. Herath mentioned that pure PCB oil has a very good cooling effect than normal oil. Transformers with high density pure PCBs after draining cannot be filled with ordinary low-density PCB free dielectric oil and transformer become scrap. Therefore, after draining transformers with pure PCBs cannot be filled with oils having lower density than pure PCB oil and transformers will not be energized. Contaminated transformers may not face this problem and could be filled with PCB free oil.

Need of prioritization of disposal of pure PCB transformers

Dr. Carmela/Project Manager UNIDO mentioned that disposal activities must be prioritized, where transformers having pure PCB must be directly exported and other transformers could be cleaned and retrofilled. Mr Herath mentioned that there are about 3000 liters of pure PCB oil and 50 tons of transformer scraps to be exported.

Dr. Carmela/Project Manager UNIDO requested a proposal form the CEB to address these special issues related to pure PCB containing transformers to have special bidding where existing financial allocations are not adequate. Mr. Mahinda suggested to prepare a cabinet paper, facilitating scrape exportation and prepare a management plan for exporting pure PCB transformers and PCB contaminated transformers since the exportation of metal is already banned through a cabinet decision.

Donor facilities available other than GEF for funding disposal

Mr. Mahinda further elaborated that, some projects and donor facilities are available other than GEF to get the support to disposal of PCBs. Dr. Carmela also mentioned that, this project cannot solve all the issues related to PCB in the country and need of such opportunities in the future work.

Possibilities of arranging loan facilities for disposal with local banks and Asian Development Bank

Dr. Carmela mentioned that they are working with ADB bank in Indonesia to provide loans to utility sector under an energy modernization project to assist disposal activities and these disposal activities become a one of the parameters to be considered when approving a loan. She proposed to have similar energy modernization loans from local banks for Sri Lanka.

Financial potential of the Ceylon Electricity Board

Mr. Herath mentioned about the existing financial allocation for this type of disposal activities and Dr.Carmela requested a report including all the budgetary information to be considered for further

funding and to convince the donor by highlighting the contribution (Core financing) already having the country. She suggested to include the financial allocations, expert time allocated,

Completion of the Inventorying process

Mr. Herath assured that they will be able to complete the inventorying the Generation and transmission sectors and prepare the report during the August and promised to send it to Dr. Carmela.

Expert mission on September and summary of the inventory and test results

Dr. Carmela, requested to prepare a summary of inventory and test results to be submitted to the foreign expert Dr. Lusiyo who is planning to visit in second week of September and this information will be used to prioritize the disposal activities provide necessary guidelines for disposal.

Further to that Dr. Carmela mentioned that, expert is supposed to prepare a TOR for the publication of the tender. Mr Herath also mentioned that, they have already sorted the transformers having pure PCBs and stored separately and very easy to locate and start the disposal.

Sri Lankan potential of using landfill facilities to dispose capacitors

Mr. Herath promised to remove any capacitors and ready for the disposal. Dr. Carmela mentioned that some other countries use hazardous land fill facilities to dispose those capacitors. Mr. Mahinda mentioned that in Sri Lanka there is no such land fill facility to dispose hazardous wastes.

Bulk supply transformers and necessity of inventorying

Mr. Mahinda reminded the letter sent by him about bulk supply transformers and requested from Mr. Herath to proceed with the process to inventorying bulk supply transformers which are own by the private owners and getting supply from the CEB or LECO. According to Mr. Herath, most of the bulk supply transformers are under LECO.

Special facilities requested by Gangs those who are working in rural and remote areas

Presenting the progress of the CEB Mr. Krishantha mentioned that now inventorying process has completed 37 % and discussed the difficulties faced by gangs. Gangs those who are working in Pollonnaruwa have requested, a logging and transport facilities to expedite the work. Mr. Mahinda suggested to prepare a board paper to provide such facilities to working gangs from Mr. Herath. Mr. Krishantha mentioned that they are planning to complete the inventory by 80 percent at the end of the 2019.

Progress reporting

Mr. Herath mentioned that they will finish the inventorying process for all generation and transmission transformers within the August and be ready the report in September.

Mobile application development

Commenting about the mobile application Mrs. Gangani Champika said that now it is ready for the field use and need few adjustments. Further to that she mentioned that still data uploading has to be done offline and synchronizing online will take another one week.

Mr. Krishantha mentioned that the database could be used in for maintenance and management purposes in future.