



# Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol

## Assessment Team Response to Public Consultation Comments on the Teesta-V Assessment Report

Comments received by: 13/09/2019

Changes made to the final assessment report? Yes

Date of this Response: 19/09/2019

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**Please refer to Tables 1 and 2 for assessors' responses to the comments and section 3 for the need to change / not change the report.**

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## Introduction

The Teesta-V Power Station was assessed between January and July 2019, using the Operation tool of the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol (HSAP).

The assessment report is available at: <http://www.hydrosustainability.org/>

## Purpose of this Response Document

In accordance with the Terms and Conditions (T&C) for the use of the Hydropower Sustainability Tools, 'the Publication of the Report will start a 60 calendar day period of comment on the report. At the close of this period, a 30 calendar day period of Report revision by the accredited assessor in conjunction with the project sponsor is available. The accredited assessor is not obliged to respond to comments. In the event that the accredited assessor chooses to amend the Report in response to comments, the amended Report is published within 30 days.'

This response document represents compliance with paragraph 9 of the T&C.

## Layout of this Response Document

This document consists of three sections. Section 1 includes general comments, which do not directly correspond to specific HSAP topics; Section 2 contains responses to comments related to specific topics of the HSAP in order of appearance in the Protocol's Implementation tool; and Section 3 indicates whether the report needs amending.

# 1. Responses to General Comments

- None -

## 2. Responses to Topic-Related Comments

Table 1 below presents issues raised, which are related to specific HSAP topics findings, and the assessment team's response.

**Table 1 – Responses to Issues Raised that are Protocol Topic-Related**

Issue Raised	Assessor Response	Assessor Response
Section 20.2.2: "As described under topics O-4 and O-18, depending on inflow and power generation targets, the reservoir is generally emptied annually during the monsoon season. This does not allow organic debris, including timber of varying sizes derived from the upper catchment, to settle and decompose, which minimises GHG emissions from the reservoir"	Mathis Rogner, IHA: "Timber is not a significant source of carbon for GHG emissions. If the reservoir is thermally stratified (highly possible in India), and significant methane production occurs in the anoxic zones, draining of the reservoir will lead to degassing emissions. Also, stuff settles outside of monsoon season too.. but it's not the big organics that will cause GHG emissions but carbon content of inflowing waters."	This comment is valid.

## 3. Conclusions

In the interest of transparency, NHPC published the assessment report on [www.hydrosustainability.org](http://www.hydrosustainability.org), supported by a press release and links on its own website. Only one public comment was received, which led to a useful clarification of text on the relationship between organic inputs into and methane emissions from the Teesta-V reservoir.

The revised text in Section 20.2.2 is as follows:

“As described under topics O-4 and O-18, depending on inflow and power generation targets, the reservoir is generally emptied annually during the monsoon season. This annual flushing along with the run-of-river operating mode minimises accumulation of organic debris, and so helps lower the risk of decomposition- related methane production.”