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P R E S S R E L E A S E

“Water and energy conservation are the priority issues to be addressed while undertaking developmental projects”, said the Director General, Pak EPA.

A public hearing on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project ‘Grand Hyatt Development at Islamabad’ was held on 9th August, 2008 in Islamabad to get the views of public, academia and environmental organizations.

The meeting was chaired by the Director General, Pak-EPA. The public hearing was widely attended by the stakeholders from public and private sector organizations.

This public hearing was in compliance with section 12 of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997, and IEE/EIA Regulations 2000. The Director General, Pak-EPA in his opening remarks highlighted the significance of the public hearing while conducting the EIA review. He mentioned the major issues which are associated with the development of mega projects; these issues include water and energy requirement, traffic management, reflection and shadow etc.

The representative of M/s BNP in his presentation introduced the team of consultants and contractors who are involved in design and execution of the project. While presenting the project, it was highlighted that the project proponent is conscious of the fact that the requirement of energy and water has to be met by adopting most efficient technologies so that the project would be marked as a Green project. To achieve this, a number of studies were undertaken before going into the design phase, a number of experts have been hired to do these studies which included Traffic Management, Security, Wind Effect, Reflection and Shadow impacts.

Salient features of the project which were appreciated by the participants include recycling of more than 40% wastewater, parking space of around 1500 vehicles, 40% of the project area to be remained under green cover, no impact on Rawal Lake Park, Usage of special glass for exterior façade thus minimizing the reflection upto only 8%.

This was followed by presentation on EIA report and mitigation plan of the project to off-set environmental impacts. The participants took keen interest in the project and raised pertinent questions related to water consumption of the hotel while in operation, handling of solid waste, energy conservation, recycling of water, traffic management, rain water harvesting, seismic viability, reflection, shadow etc.

The Director General while concluding the public hearing appreciated the proponent by bringing in a Smart Building. It was reiterated that Pak-EPA has always encouraged the development projects by facilitating the proponent by making their projects eco-friendly. The suggestion put forward by the participants shall be incorporated while doing the EIA review. A Post-EIA Monitoring Team of Pak-EPA with representation of civil society shall be doing the post-EIA monitoring. The proponent of the project thanked the Director General and the participants for their valuable input.

(Asif S. Khan)
Director General, Pak-EPA/
Official Spokesman, Ministry of Environment
Government of Pakistan,
Islamabad.
Dated: 9th August, 2008.