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### **PRESS RELEASE**

This is a rejoinder to the news item appearing in some local dailies viz., The Shillong Times on its issue dated 1.11.2011 under heading "Leakage in Umiarn Power House" and dated 2.11.2011 under "Leshka 3" Unit to put MeECL in financial mess" and The Meghalaya Times in its issue dated 6.11.2011 under the heading "Unhygienic drinking water distributed from Umiarn .,Filter House". Since most of the news items have falsely represented facts and figures which has put the reputation order of MeECL in bad light before the public, the Management would like to inform the public as follows:-

#### **1. Leakage from Penstock:**

The water from Umiarn Reservoir is taken through a Tunnel into Butterfly Valves on the other side of the hill. From the Butterfly Valve, two Penstock Pipes emerge to conduit the water into 4 Turbines of 9MW each in the Power House. Each Turbine requires atleast 5000 to 7000 litres of water per second. However, when all Turbines are working, water requirement is in the order of 28,000 litres per second. The leakage in the Penstock Pipe is not in the Pipe, but in the Expansion Joint provided for safety of the Pipe. It is normal for leakages through the Expansion Joints. The present leakage level @ 15 lits/sec is not considered a major concern. Repairs of the same are simple, but require shut down of the Power House which is not feasible at present.

The MeECL has system in place to monitor all abnormal changes or defects which may arise in all the Projects components etc and whatever action is required is taken at the appropriate time",.

#### **2. Water Supply at Umiarn.**

To meet the water supply requirement of 1,30,000 liters per day by the 1300 odd residents of the MeECL colony at Umiarn, about 90,000 Litres of water per day is supplied from 2 Borewells located at various locations at Umiarn and about 40,000 liters per day is dependent on gravity flow source from Mawiong. The water supply is normally treated. The statement that the Alum(Alarm) Filter is not working is in correct.

Meanwhile, the Management has instructed Medical authorities to verify the statement that "due to lack of germ-free water in the area around 300 quarter occupants in the MeECL Colony mostly complaints of problems of gastritis, ulcer, hyper acidity, liver related problems",

It may be mentioned that NESAC supply water only for its office use while its residents depend on MeECL for water supply.

A study is being made to discontinue future use of Mawiong water source, as, over the years the source has started to get polluted.

#### **3. Addition of 3<sup>rd</sup> Unit.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> unit of 42 MW will contribute to the power generation of MeECL by 113.15 Million units (MU) in d 90% dependable year (low rainfall year). In addition it has improved the viability of the project as the cost per MW has come down. The statement that there will be no water for the 3rd unit is incorrect. The present PLF ( Plant Load Factor) of 3x42 MW is 44 %. It was 51% for 2x42 MW. The Umiarn-Umtru basin projects have a PLF of only around 30%.

It may be mentioned that the MLHEP is a Peaking Station. The live storage of the Reservoir is more than 6 MCM (million cubic meter) and can cater to all the 3 Units for peaking (126MW) round the year.

The CEA, which vetted the proposal, is the Apex Body of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, who oversee the feasibility of Power Projects all over the country, and there is no reason to doubt their credibility. The work on the 3rd Unit is going on and is nearing completion.

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