

August 2012

XAYABURI DAM PROJECT:

Clarifications from the Compagnie Nationale du Rhône

The Compagnie Nationale du Rhône (CNR) wishes to clarify its role in the Xayaburi dam project, located on the Mekong River in Lao PDR.

The CNR is the adviser to the Government of Lao PDR for certain aspects of the project. The CNR is not working as consultant of the project developer.

Late 2011, the CNR was entrusted with an expertise of the project in three specific areas: hydrology, navigation and sediment transport. Note that **the CNR mission has neither encompassed the evaluation of fish migration nor other environmental issues.**

The MRC (Mekong River Commission), inter-governmental organisation for the sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin, has also issued guidelines applicable to dam projects in the Mekong basin, which should be respected.

In March 2012, the CNR delivered a document named “CNR Peer Review Final Report”, which is available on Powering Progress*: www.poweringprogress.org

This Peer Review report is an **independent evaluation** by CNR experts. It recommends additional studies to be performed to improve the project.

Knowing that almost half of the sediment supply of the Mekong delta is coming from upstream of the project, **sediment transport issue** is one of the most important for the Xayaburi dam. Thus, solutions have been proposed at the conceptual level by the CNR, based on its experience of operator of run of river dams. These solutions need to be developed and their costs evaluated.

In its fields of skills, the CNR remains at the disposal of the Lao PDR government to improve the Xayaburi dam project.

** The website of the Department of Energy Promotion and Development (EPD), which is under the mantle of the Lao's Ministry of Energy and Mines.*

Press contacts

Anne Méry - Communication Manager - + 33 4 72 00 68 96 / a.mery@cnr.tm.fr

Marie-Cécile Grisard – Press Relations Officer - +33 4 72 00 69 48 / m.grisard@cnr.tm.fr

August 2012

THE CNR IN BRIEF

A mostly public owned company with GDF SUEZ as its main industrial shareholder, **CNR is France's 2nd largest electricity producer and its no. 1 producer of exclusively renewable energy.**

Founded in 1933, the government entrusted the concession to develop and operate the river to it in 1934, with the aim of fulfilling three missions for the benefit of the community: hydroelectricity production, improving navigation, and providing water for irrigation and other agricultural uses.

As designer and operator of hydropower plants, dams and locks on the Rhone, CNR has developed industrial and port sites, marinas, mooring points and leisure areas. It also offers river and hydropower engineering services in France and twenty other countries.

CNR is at the forefront of sustainable development with its mix of 100% renewable energy sources, its actions to promote the development of river transport and its exemplary economic model based on redistribution to the territories in which it operates.

Key figures 2011:

- Electricity Production: 11.1 TWh
- Turnover: € 1.1 billion
- Net income: € 150.4 M

CNR ENGINEERING

With CNR Engineering, an engineering and consulting office specialised in hydroelectric and river engineering, and its experimental and measurement laboratory, CNR has a pool of expertise with about a hundred employees.

Its long experience of operating the Rhone has made CNR a reference on the 5 continents. Whether in France, Europe, Africa, Asia or Latin America, **CNR exports the competences of its employees and the technical knowhow of its hydraulics and measurement laboratory in Gerland.**

- Present in 30 countries abroad
- Areas of expertise:
 - Navigable waterways: locks, canals, industrial ports and marinas
 - Hydropower plants: low and medium head hydropower plants, small hydropower plants, dams, automated and remote controlled operation
 - River morphology, sediment transport studies and management
 - River development and restoration: dikes, weirs, fish passes, white water stadiums, ecological engineering, phytoremediation, impact studies
 - Hydraulic and hydrological management of river systems: hydrological studies and prediction models, hydrometry, hydrometeorological networks, hydraulic studies using mathematical and physical models, mapping, GIS (Geographic Information Systems)

Press contacts

Anne Méry - Communication Manager - + 33 4 72 00 68 96 / a.mery@cnr.tm.fr

Marie-Cécile Grisard – Press Relations Officer - +33 4 72 00 69 48 / m.grisard@cnr.tm.fr