



Engagement plan for HPPs: a case study from Brazil (ID #513)

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Hydropower plants (HPPs) are relevant to low carbon economy, contributing to Brazilian power mix renewability and enabling the viability of other renewables. Even so, HPPs are usually seen as controversial by society. To ensure transparency, stakeholder engagement is essential for a successful management of all HPPs socio-environmental impacts. The Brazilian Energy Research Office - EPE has developed a stakeholder engagement plan which has begun during HPP's planning phase, combined with EIA schedule, comprising four axes: team training, disclosure of the resettlement plan, dissemination of project and EIA information and monitoring plan through targets and indicators. The plan also considered: stakeholder identification and analysis; homepage creation; a local office to receive suggestions/complaints; public reunions addressed to local communities; communication throughout process to gather socio-economic baseline data about who will be displaced and explain compensation and assistance for eligible people; socio-economic diagnosis with participation of stakeholders; and workshops with local government technicians to reinforce public actions and to guarantee benefits from HPP development. EPE also developed a dialogue plan addressed to indigenous people with specific culture and language strategies. This approach was innovative and achieved good results with the local community, allowing access to project and EIA information and decreasing the risk of conflicts.

Summary: This paper outlines the Brazilian Energy Research Office (EPE) experience in stakeholder's engagement during a HPP environmental licensing process.