



HYDRO POWER - GREEN POWER

For long, the Hydro Power has been considered as a clean and green source of energy and to be environmental friendly in terms of being pollution free i.e. no ash, smoke or flue gases. Apart from supplying precious peaking power to the system at economical rates, these projects considered to be helpful in the utilization of water resources for purposes like irrigation, flood moderation, navigation and drinking water supply etc. and for rapid development of roads/ rail, telecommunications, electrification, industrialization & improvement in the potentially backward and inaccessible areas where they are located.

Of late, there has been increasing resistance from various quarters to the development of these projects which already suffered a lot in the past especially on account of lack of availability of necessary long term low interest bearing funds. The primary reasons for the same have been submergence of households/ forests, rehabilitation and resettlement involved especially in storage projects and the apprehensions regarding downstream impact of these projects on the river flows both during the normal operation and in the event of the dam break. Environmental impacts of Hydro projects need to be assessed in proper perspective keeping in view all aspects including the negative environmental impacts as well as positive environmental impacts such as development of new water bodies, afforestation created etc. Role of "pumped storage schemes" coupled with a pre-dominant thermal / nuclear generation capacities also needs promotion. A "pumped storage scheme" is one of the green and proven techniques available for efficiently storing large amount of surplus energy and making it available at short notice.

The brain storming session would focus on following issues:

Environmental Impacts of Hydro Projects - positive and negative. Whether Hydro projects should be called environmentally unfriendly even after taking mitigation measures & implementation of EMP.

Environmental impacts of hydro projects in comparison to that of thermal & nuclear projects wherein problems of emissions, depletion of natural resources, threat of radioactive radiations etc.

Whether numbers of small projects in comparison to one big project really have lesser environmental impacts?

Environmental friendly Hydro projects - An effective EMP?