

PRESENTATION 5: RoR HEP basics (I)

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Run-of-river HEP headworks





Headworks

- The headworks in a run-ofriver HEP include everything constructed at the site of the river itself.
- This includes not only the dam, but all appurtenant structures, including spillways, intakes and operational buildings.







Dam

- For a run-of-river HEP, the dam is usually situated in a valley, allowing a narrow reservoir to fill behind it. This creates head for power generation.
- The dam structure will vary depending on location – the three major types are earthen concrete, and rock-filled dams.
- NJHEP is a hybrid: the main dam is concrete with a rockfilled section straddling a geological fault (the main boundary thrust).





Spillway

- The spillway is the principal structure by which water is passed through the dam – particularly in times of flood. It may also have other applications (e.g. sediment management).
- Multiple spillway structures may be included in the same dam.
- Usually includes a structure to prevent erosion of the riverbed at the foot of the dam.



Intakes

- The intakes allow water to be abstracted from the reservoir into the headrace – and thence on to the turbines.
- Need to be carefully designed to minimize sediment ingress and prevent vortexing.
- May include special structures to achieve either or both of these aims, e.g. desanders.





Reservoir

- Not part of the headworks per se, but an important component of the HEP.
- A run-of-river HEP can function without a reservoir

 but its power generation potential would be limited.
- Run-of-river HEPs tend to have small reservoirs for the purpose of developing head and improving power production in the dry season.



Live and dead storage



- Designed to permit flexible operation of the HEP year-round, as well as provide flood control.
- **Storage HEP** Notable example: Tarbela HEP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Run-of-river HEP with no storage

Run-of-river

HEP with

storage

- No storage at all; effectively a turbine placed in the river or on an adjoining canal. Usually a smaller HEP.
- Entirely dependent on the river flow on a particular day and used only as base load power. Relatively primitive.
- Notable example: Shadiwal HEP, Punjab.
- Small reservoir constructed in narrow valley to improve head and power generation.
- Typically used for baseload power in the wet season and peaking power in the dry season.
- Notable example: NJHEP, Kashmir.

Types of HEP

- HEPs can be divided into categories depending on how much storage they have – i.e. the size of the reservoir.
- Storage can be used to raise head and increase power generation.





Reservoir levels

- Storage in a HEP reservoir is determined by the invert of the lowest outlet
- Anything below that point is dead storage in that it cannot be evacuated through the dam via gravity. Reservoir space below this level is often used for sediment storage.
- Anything above that point is live or controllable storage that can be used for operational purposes such as power production.
- Pondage is stored in the HEP's operating pool, i.e. it is live storage the top of which is the full pondage level (FPL). The bottom of the operating pool is the minimum operating level (MOL).





NJHEP reservoir

- Longitudinal view (Lsection) of the NJHEP reservoir with the dam at 0m. River slope in reservoir is 1% or 1/100.
- Demonstrates the Minimum Operating Level (MOL), Full Pondage Level (FPL) and High Flood Level (HFL).





Run-of-river HEP operation

- Himalayan run-of-river plants are designed to operate at full power through the wet summer months, supplying base load 24/7.
- To minimize sedimentation, they may operate at the minimum operating level (MOL) during the wet season.
- During the dry winter months they can only produce limited amounts of energy.
- If pondage is available, during the dry season the HEP can be turned off to allow water to be stored in the operating pool for part of the day up to the full pondage level (FPL), releasing stored water (i.e. pondage) to produce power during hours of peak demand.



NJHEP reservoir level: 2018–2023





Spillways and freeboard



Spillway and freeboard configuration



- The spillway is the principal means of releasing water to the river below the dam during floods.
- It is designed to safely pass the design flood, which is assessed based on location.
- In the Himalaya, the design flood is usually assessed on a 10,000-year basis.
- Spillway placement may be relevant to the freeboard, being the portion of the dam that extends above the top of the operating pool and protects the dam from overtopping.



Freeboard height



- Operational reliability.

NJHEP design flood







Spillway configurations



- Multiple spillway configurations can be used.
- Several different configurations may be incorporated into a single dam.



Advantages of spillway designs



Ungated surface spillway

Gated surface spillway

Orifice spillway



Multiple spillway design



NJHEP spillways

- Spillways can be combined in different configurations to meet different challenges at the HEP site (e.g. flood or sediment management). If one design is not possible, a workaround may be developed.
- For example, an orifice spillway may be included as the main spillway, with a surface spillway incorporated for use if the discharge capacity of the main spillway is exceeded.
- The NJHEP is one such design, incorporating orifice and surface gated spillways – together with undersluices built into the intake structure for sediment management.





Upstream elevation







Downstream elevation







Orifice

spillway







Surface gated spillway



