PARTICIPATORY HYDROPOWER INVENTORY STUDIES IN BRAZIL – A CASE STUDY

Ana Cláudia Cirino dos Santos, Carlos Eduardo Cabral Carvalho, Felipe Maruff Dib, ***Henrique Paiva de Paula*** *and Renato Marques Batista*

Agência Nacional de Energia Elétrica – ANEEL, Brasilia, Brazil

Infrastructure development, and particularly, developing its abundant hydraulic resources is an important part of energy expansion in Brazil. This task presents a challenge, especially since we often notice impacts on rights and duties of the affected population located in the region being developed, a challenge that becomes even more complex considering the contrast between localized impacts and distributed benefits. The National Agency for Electric Energy (ANEEL) plays a critical role in this process, holding the responsibility for approving inventory studies, the first step in the hydropower development process. Drawing on our experience in this context, we concluded that the expansion of the Brazilian hydropower sector lacked participation of relevant stakeholders, principally those affected by the construction of hydropower plants before, during or after construction.

This perception made us rethink our methods and consider, and change, how and when ANEEL can include more stakeholders in the process resulting in the elaboration of Participatory Hydropower Inventory Studies. This is important because the engagement needed in this process is obtained through dialogue and provides different perspectives in terms of interests, risks, benefits and prioritization. ANEEL, as the main player in this process, is developing strategies for cooperation with environmental agencies to promote participation and engagement throughout the approval process.

The case study to be presented demonstrates the first case of a Participatory Hydropower Inventory Study of the Pardo River, located in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, in central Brazil. In this pilot study, Imasul, the state's environmental agency, was the only stakeholder involved. With their participation, we were able to assess the dam siting studies with the perspective of the licensing authority. The result was the approval of the study considering different environmental aspects and, in parallel, the elaboration of the Term of Reference for the Integrated Environmental Assessment for the Pardo River watershed, which will be mandatory for any entrepreneur interested in developing the hydropower plants identified in the inventory studies.

PRESENTER BIO: Henrique is an Electrical Engineer and holds an MSc in Civil and Environmental Engineering. He has 10 years of experience working for the Brazilian Electrical Energy Regulator (ANEEL) with hydropower inventory studies and hydropower development. He rides a motorcycle, plays saxophone and soccer and is learning how to fly gliders.