

Expert review response for the following Milestone

Sidrapong Hydel Power Station, Darjeeling, India, 1897

Reviewer 2: Jahangir Khan, Division Manager, BC Hydro, Chair, Chapter Awards Program, IEEE PES

1. Is the suggested wording of the Plaque Citation accurate?

Yes.

The proposed citation does look okay considering the stated achievement, location, and historical significance as the first hydroelectric power station in the Indian subcontinent.

2. Is the evidence presented in the proposal of sufficient substance and accuracy to support the Plaque Citation?

Yes.

The proposal contains sufficient historical and technical evidence to support the citation. The background, technical details, commissioning records, and supporting references collectively demonstrate the importance of the Sidrapong Hydel Power Station and its pioneering role in greater India's electrification.

3. Does the proposed milestone represent a significant technical achievement?

Yes.

The Sidrapong Hydel Power Station was a major engineering achievement for its time and marked the beginning of hydroelectric generation in the Indian subcontinent. Construction in difficult mountainous terrain and the successful operation of the plant make it a noteworthy technological milestone.

4. Were there similar or competing achievements? If so, have the proposers adequately described these and their relationship to the achievement being proposed?

Yes – may be.

While hydroelectric developments were occurring elsewhere in the world during the same period, the proposal clearly establishes Sidrapong as the first such installation in the Indian subcontinent. One can claim (based on my google search) similar achievements for

- Shivanasamudra Hydroelectric Project (Karnataka, India): Commissioned in 1902
- Hakone Hydroelectric Power Plant (Japan): Opened in 1904
- Schoelkopf Power Station No. 1 (Niagara Falls, USA)
- Cragside Estate (Northumberland, England): Developed in 1878
- Ames Hydroelectric Generating Plant (Colorado, USA): Constructed in 1890

5. Have proposers shown a clear benefit to humanity?

Yes.

The proposal demonstrates that the project contributed to electrification, economic development, improved public services, and better living conditions in the Darjeeling region. It also helped establish the future development of hydroelectric power in India.

6. Are the supporting reference texts credible? Are there reference texts which ought to have been included in support of the proposal, but which are missing?

Yes.

The references appear credible and include historical records, books, journals, and technical publications. The supporting materials are adequate to establish the date, location, and significance of the achievement. Additional modern academic references could strengthen the proposal but are not essential.

7. If personal name(s) are included in the plaque citation, has the proposer demonstrated that the criteria for name inclusion have been met?

N/A.

Overall Recommendation

I support this proposal. The Sidrapong Hydel Power Station represents an important technical and historical achievement, had a lasting regional impact, and is well supported by the evidence and references presented in the submission.

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