

Expert review response for the following Milestone

Sidrapong Hydel Power Station, Darjeeling India, 1897

Reviewer 1: Dean Sharafi, 2026 IEEE PES Treasurer

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Hi Celia,

Thanks for your email. In doing the assessment I had the pleasure of looking at the history of Indian electricity system and the importance of this plant, and I am very happy to support this submission, and answer the questions as below:

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

Yes, the suggested wording reflects the description of the plant its importance, history and relevance to the Indian electricity industry.

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

Yes, the evidence is sufficient, and there are numerous materials on the web characterising the importance of this plant in the history of the Indian electricity industry in particular, and Asian in general. Sidrapong plant is not only an infrastructure asset; it is a heritage site associated with colonial-era engineering which is deeply embedded in Darjeeling's identity and often cited in Indian engineering education, energy history, and regional heritage considerations.

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

It represents a significant longevity milestone. The plant was a significant technical achievement at the time it was commissioned given the difficulty of the terrain and being the first of its kind. It was built at the same era of other first power stations in the world, and the fact that it has endured over many decades shows its significance for the local livelihood, leading to great positive changes for the community. The Sidrapong Hydel Power Station is important, not because of its size today, but because of its historical, technological, regional, and symbolic significance. Because of this electricity generating plant Darjeeling became one of the earliest electrified hill towns in Asia.

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

Reading the submission, I am not aware of any competing achievements. From the material on the web, it doesn't appear that there have been similar plants at that time.

5. 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?

The supporting material are credible and cited with credible references.

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

N/A

Regards,

Dean

IEEE PES Treasurer