

Amnaila Falls US\$500 Million Hydro Power – A Caribbean View

The long-awaited Amnaila Falls Hydro Electric Power (AFHEP) project in Guyana is now expected to get underway during the first quarter of next year once there is a financial closure with a number of private and public sector partners. Once the US\$400-US\$500 million Kuribrong River project gets underway it is expected to be completed within three years.

Phase 1 will involve the installation of 154 megawatt capacity; the installation of 278 km of double circuit 230 KV lines; and the construction of 85 kilometers of new access roads.

Financing for the project would be derived from an equity financing contribution of about 25 to 30 percent of the cost for which Sithe Global Power has committed 100%. Sithe Global (a subsidiary of Blackstone -- the largest private equity fund in the US) started due diligence on AFHEP and Guyana in 2006 and it has committed all the equity required to build the project after completing the technical and commercial due diligence.

Source: CEIS Update December 2008