

Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Al-Zara Thermal Power Plant Project

Mhd. Saleh Al-Ayoubi
Associate Professor

Faculty of Electrical and Mechanical, Damascus University

Impact

The project has achieved its intended impact on reducing the regions heavy reliance on oil electricity generating capacity. The project plays very big role in Syrian power system, the percentage of this project capacity forms around 13% of the total generated capacity in the country. The goal of constructing this project has been achieved, as two types of energy (crude oil and gas) are used. In addition, the construction of the plant raised the socio-economic statue of the people living in the region. This happened through employing many people during construction stage and after hand-over of the project. Nowadays, more than 700 persons are employed in the plant. No detrimental or negative impact has been observed either on environment or on residents, as it did not cause any displacement of residential area. But to be in the safe side, it is recommended to install active filters in exhausted gas towers, to avoid environmental consequences in future.

Efficiency and Effectiveness

Most of the output, project period, and project cost were largely in accordance with the plan set at the time of appraisal. But there are two problems, the first one is related to one of the auxiliary pump motors which is not working properly for long time even it was maintained many times, and the second one is the problem related to H2-generator which is also not working normally. These problems may cause the plant to fail in providing the electrical energy in case no measures were taken to resolve them as soon as possible.

The project has been highly effective in alleviating power shortage along with reinforcing power transmission network in the region and reducing T & D losses. The average capacity utilization indicates that all the three generators continue to be in good conditions and are maintained well except the problems mentioned above. By increasing supply and improving quality of power, the project has helped Hama province to become favorite investment destination especially by the industrial companies. Also, part of the generated power in Al-Zara plant is exported to Lebanon. This is considered very supportive to plant operation, maintenance and future development, and to the country budget in general.

As per year 2004, the plant produced 3639 out of 29533 GWh, that is 12.3% of the total produced energy in the country. As for generation, Al Zara plant capacity was 660 out of 3701 MW for steam turbine, that is 18 % of the total steam turbine capacity in the country.