


# Thar 660MW lignite coal power pl become operational by Jan 2019

*'It's time we start working in the direction to produce gas through coal', says Sindh Engro Coal Mining*

By **Ahmad Ahmadani** - November 11, 2018



 Listen to Article

**KARACHI:** Thar is being touted as a potential game changer for the entire country with the first ever become operational by January 2019.

With 94 per cent and 92 per cent completion levels, the power and mine projects both are five months ahead of schedule. The first electron from Thar to the national grid by January 2019.

This was stated by Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) CEO Shamsuddin Shaikh while speaking

at a press conference. Engro Power Thar Limited (EPTL) and Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) are the largest private investments in the Economic Corridor (CPEC), and the only investments which are 95 per cent owned by Pakistanis.

He also informed that on August 1, 2018, EPTL successfully connected its power plant with the national grid for the plant. The next part of this dream will be achieved by December 2018 or January 2019, when the plant will be added to the national grid.

He said, “We should not see our coal just as a resource to produce power, in fact, the world is now converging on coal. We should also start working in this direction. Thar coal reserves are huge and we can use them to convert the coal sector of Pakistan”.

“Our gas reserves are depleting fast and it's time we start working in the direction to produce gas through

He urged the government to use at least 20 per cent of Thar coal by blending it with imported coal, with indigenous resources to be utilised.

He informed that the cost of per unit power production from Thar coal block II would significantly reduce operational.

“We would be able to start producing electricity from Thar by January 2019”, he added.

He further said, “660 MW of the power project is currently subcritical but we have requested the government projects should be supercritical which is 3 per cent more efficient than subcritical plants”.

Talking about the progress on the mine project, he said, “There is 92 per cent progress on the project annum. This project is 4 months ahead of schedule and the project cost is 20 per cent less than the amount we have removed approximately 154 meters of soil already and we would be able to extract coal starting

He said that coal from Thar is a cheaper, indigenous and abundant resource now after the success of the project in Pakistan.

“We have set an example for the world that Pakistan is an attractive market for investment in coal mining”, he added.

Speaking about the ownership of the project, he said that the Sindh government has 54 per cent ownership and unmatched political support from all political parties and governments for the Thar coal project.

Shamsuddin Shaikh informed the media that out of the current 4400 workers working at the SECMC site, “Engro is operating 24 schools, constructing a 250 bed hospital and several water projects for the nation”.

There is a heavy reliance on imported fuels which results in constant depletion of foreign exchange and the value chain. This inappropriate fuel mix leads to energy losses at each level of the value chain and inadequate, unaffordable electricity and circular debt.

He added that SECMC was created with the vision “to develop a technically and commercially viable Coal-based energy security to Pakistan”. The total reserves of block II are sufficient to support 5000MW of energy out of the energy crisis.

He added that the Thar coal mining project is being undertaken by Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) between Government of Sindh (GoS), Engro Energy Limited (formerly Engro Powergen Limited) and its subsidiary Habib, Habib Bank Limited (HBL), Hub Power Company (HUBCO) and China Machinery Engineering Corporation Mine, subsidiary of SPI (State Power International) Mengdong (SPIM), formerly CPIM, has joined the SECMC preference shares’ subscription.

---

---

---

Ahmad Ahmadani

