



EPM reports that this Wednesday, August 7, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) published on the IDB Invest website, at:

<https://idbinvest.org/es/projects/planta-hidroelectrica-ituango>, two technical reports of the Ituango hydroelectric project, with cut-off date August 2018 and March 2019. These reports state, among other things, the assessment of the critical actions of the project, review the schedules and the potential risks or complexities that may arise. They further make a diagnosis of the security of the infrastructure.

These documents were made by an independent commission of international experts hired by BID Invest. The reports, however, do not include the analysis of the activities carried out by EPM from the beginning of March until August 2019. Therefore, it is important to specify, vis-à-vis the published information, that at the time of publication of the second report in question, EPM was still evacuating the water from the powerhouse and no progress had been made on the inspection, stabilization and cleaning of the cavern.

Although experts noted at the time that Conduits 3 and 4 (for EPM 7 and 8), were possibly in critical condition over the weeks, EPM - after the studies - determined that they were stable. Additionally, EPM hired a detailed inspection with the firm *Hibbard Insshore*, which reviewed the current status of intakes and found them stable and in good condition.

Experts also said that: “in the portals of the original diversion tunnels, the stability of the slope, located at the top of them, was critical.” In this regard, it is important to specify that the surface stability of these slopes does not interfere with the general stability of the rock mass in depth. Additionally, these slopes are monitored from the Technical Monitoring Center (Centro de Monitoreo Técnico, CMT), 24 hours a day continuously with specialized radars that indicate that these are currently stable. However, given the conditions of the area, there are small sporadic surface detachments caused by rains, which do not compromise the overall stability of the slope. Currently, the slopes tend to reach the natural gradient of the latter.



As key findings, the reports highlight: (a) the good construction and engineering practices adopted by EPM for project recovery; (b) the extraordinary cooperation provided by EPM and its full transparency in addressing critical issues with consultants; (c) the state of security of the Ituango complex (dam and caverns) and the significant reduction of the risks associated with the project, thanks to the measures adopted by EPM since the contingency; and (d) the feasibility of the total recovery of the project, which will allow it to meet the objectives for which it was conceived.

The reports, while recognizing good practices in occupational safety and health, also recommend working on the improvement of some fronts. In this regard, progress has been made in specific safety procedures for critical activities and field monitoring.

The procedure starts from a technical visit to evaluate that the structural component is in good condition, then the work environments are evaluated; emergency plans are updated according to the new risks identified; drills are carried out to respond to possible situations and, finally, each front is constantly monitored.

All emergency brigades have been trained and additional resources have been acquired, such as the purchase of a fire engine. It is noteworthy that no fatal accident has taken place during the contingency.