

## **HYDROELECTRIC PLANT OF BELO MONTE - THE HISTORICAL DISRESPECT TO THE POSITIONING OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF XINGU RIVER**

**Cledir Mendes Soares<sup>1</sup>**

"The Belo Monte Hydroelectric Power Plant was designed to generate 11,233.1 MW at the peak and, as average energy, 4,571 MW. This is the possible engineering arrangement for Belo Monte to generate energy in a constant way with low socio-environmental impact and with the smallest possible wetland, which is the 503 km<sup>2</sup> reservoir. Belo Monte is a hydroelectric power plant. That is, when the flow is small, it generates less energy. It does not have those huge reservoirs to store water like the Itaipu HPP.

An enterprise such as the Belo Monte HPP requires the execution of studies that attest its viability. Norte Energia SA did not spare efforts in this direction: it reviewed the studies of Xingu River Hydroelectric Inventory, promoted the Environmental Impact Study (EIA / Rima), carried out Anthropological studies of the Indigenous Populations and also the Integrated Environmental Assessment (AAI).

To discuss the construction of the plant, between 2007 and 2010, 12 public consultations were held; Ten workshops with the community that lives in the area of the enterprise; Technical forums in Belém and Xingu; Visits to more than four thousand families; Four public hearings of the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), with more than six thousand people; And 30 meetings of the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) in indigenous villages."

SOURCE: NORTE ENERGIA S / A. Available at <http://norteenergiasa.com.br/site/portugues/usina-belo-monte/>. Accessed on: 05/05/2017.

What we see is a statement that a large enterprise that has been run for the benefit of an entire nation, guaranteeing the energy security of a country and respecting the right to communities affected by the works that their problems and opinions are considered for the implementation of the plant.

The planning of the work began in the military government in 1975, provided for the taking of part of the Xingu National Park, which initiated an opposing movement by the local indigenous populations. The great technical difficulties and the economic situation experienced by Brazil in the 1980s and 1990s led the project to become oblivious. But in the Lula government in 2009, the issue returned to the agenda under the shadow of an energy blackout in the country.

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<sup>1</sup> Economic Scientist Specialist in Environmental Economics, student of the Graduate Programs in the Professional Master's Degree in National Network in Management and Regulation of Water Resources - ProfÁgua by FEIS-UNESP and Specialization in Elaboration and Management of Projects for Municipal Management of Water Resources by the IFCE. Project Manager of the Municipal Department of the Environment of Assis - SP, Brazil.

The withdrawal of riparian peoples and indigenous villages located at points of flooding of the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Power Plant reservoir contravenes Article 10 of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Populations, which says that indigenous populations should not be forcefully withdrawn from their lands. Occurred by the federal spheres of the Brazilian government. Still, the developmental character of the project, expressed by the federal government, goes against the application of Article 2 to the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Conference of International Labor Organizations, which is the responsibility of governments to promote development with participation And consent of indigenous and tribal peoples.

Indigenous leaders and local communities are constantly in conflict with those responsible for the work, with manifestations and obstruction in the construction sites. There is a great movement of the various organizations in the social networks to publicize the precarious situation of the new housing provided to the populations "removed" of their lands for the development of the region and the nation. However, the constant scrapping of public agencies responsible for protecting the environmental interests and indigenous populations of the region (IBAMA and FUNAI) is observed, demonstrating in this way that the federal government is not assuming its role of protecting the interests of these communities, going beyond Which gives support and "legality" to the work and its various impacts.

This research did not identify actions to seek support for international mechanisms to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples and traditional communities in the affected region. There is great pressure in the local and national spheres. However, it is necessary that the leaders of several entities related to this problem act more actively the international entities so that they press the Brazilian government to review the environmental licenses of the enterprise and the effective fulfillment of the actions that are included in the socio-environmental reports of the project. Only with this international pressure will the Brazilian entities be forced to assert the rights of the indigenous and traditional populations of the Xingu River region.

## **REFERENCES**

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