

How long will a hydro project take?

How long will a hydro project take from initial concept to final operation?

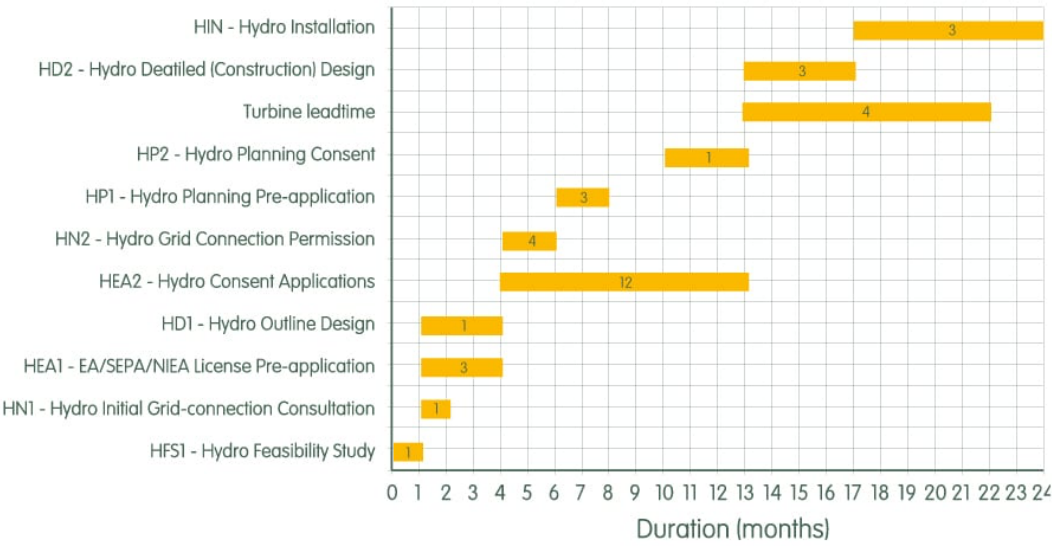
There are quite a number of stages to a hydropower project including the following:

- Hydropower feasibility study
- Distribution network grid connection consultation / permission
- Environmental licensing
- Local authority planning permission
- Outline and detailed civils and electrical design
- Turbine procurement
- Civils construction
- Site installation and hydropower system commissioning

Due to how long it takes to secure the environmental consents (normally 9 – 18 months) and the long lead-time on the hydro turbine (normally 6 – 12 months), plus of course the substantial amount of engineering design work and construction time, hydro projects tend to take between 2 and 4 years to complete.

For a typical 1000 kW hydro power project without site specific complications it would be reasonable to assume a project duration of three years, broken down as shown on the project timeline chart below.

Hydro Project Stages (shortest possible timeframe)



Hydropower project duration