

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	CO-INVESTMENT MIROVA WIND POLAND
Project Number:	2020-0091
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	Equity investment for the implementation of a portfolio of three onshore wind farms located in Poland, for a total capacity of 132 MW.

EIA required yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: yes

(Details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project comprises three onshore wind plants with a total nominal capacity of 132 MW, grouped in three clusters located in Poland:

- EP44: Capacity 44 MW, the site is located 20km south of the Baltic Sea, in Leczyce commune. Comprises 22 turbines of 2.0 MW each, rotor diameter 105 meters and hub height 105. The grid connection requires a 30/110 kV substation in Kaczkowo, owned by the project company, as well as 3 km of 110 kV overhead line to connect to the Local Grid Operator (Energa) station.
- Gniew: Capacity of 22 MW, located 60km south of the city of Gdansk. Comprises 11 turbines of 2.0 MW each, rotor diameter 120 m and hub height 105 m. The grid connection requires a new 30/110 kV substation in Piaseczno, owned by project company, as well as 5.6km of 110 kV OVHL, for the connection to the Local Grid Operator (Energa) station.
- Wielowies: Capacity 66 MW, located 20km north of the city of Gliwice. Comprises 20 turbines of 3.45 MW each, rotor diameter 132 and 126 m, and hub height 120 m. 17 turbines will be connected to a new 30/110 kV substation built by the project company, the 3 remaining turbines will be connected directly to a Grid Operator substation. 80m of the 110 kV HV underground line will be built by the SPV and transferred to the Local Grid Operator (Tauron).

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 20,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 27th May 2020

The present operation will contribute to the achievement of the EU and Polish targets for the reduction of CO₂ emissions and use of renewable energy, which require additional capacity to become operational in the upcoming years.

The competent authority has granted environmental licences for all facilities. The plants fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive (Directive 2014/52/EU amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EU), and have been screened in by the regional environmental agency, requiring full EIA, including public consultation.

The authorisation procedure is satisfactory, following the Bank's review of the individual EIA documentation and support biodiversity studies.

Birds are the most critical fauna affected by wind farms, and some species observed in the area have the character of vulnerable. However, since the wind farms are not located in the high-risk zones, no significant impact on those species is expected with adequate mitigation measures. For all the projects, the promoter carried out avifauna and chiropters' studies. In the case of EP44, the white-tailed eagle, present on the IUCN and the country's red list for protected species, has been identified nearby. The authority defined mitigants, including the definition of the micro sitting, and enhanced monitoring during the construction and operational phases. Similarly, for Gniew and Wielowies wind farms, temporary curtailment is imposed in order to minimise the risk of collision for both birds and chiropters, and the same enhanced monitoring is required during the operational phase, including a mortality census.

With regard to the project's impact on Natura 2000 sites, impact studies were carried out in all the plants and the environmental authority indicated in the respective licences the lack of significant negative impacts on the integrity of these sites. The closest Natura 2000 areas to the project sites are: Wielowies wind farm, 3 km to Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Dolina Małej Panwi PLH160008; EP44 wind farm, 3 km southeast of the project site, Special Protection Area (SPA) Lasy Lęborskie PLB 220006; and Gniew, adjacent to SAC Dolna Wisła PLH220033 and SPA Dolina Dolnej Wisły PLB040003.

While the initial impact assessment highlighted the possible intersection of Gniew and Wielomies wind farms with archaeological sites, geological drillings have been performed and did not identify any archaeological remains. However, dedicated experts will assist during the construction phase to ensure protection of historic sites.

As a conclusion of EIA and Appropriate Assessment processes, no significant negative impact has been identified post mitigation. Most of the lands are used for rainfed agriculture, and are in a very anthropised state. The impact on other species of fauna and flora is also limited.

The environmental license for EP44 was granted in 2014; for Gniew in 2013; and for Wielowies in 2013.

The projects are cleared from legal recourse at the time of financing, but a local association previously appealed against the environmental decision issued for Wind Farm Wielowieś by the Regional Director of the Environmental Protection in Katowice. The appeal was dismissed by the General Director of the Environmental Protection in Warsaw. The next complaints were filed to the Administrative Court in Warsaw and Supreme Administrative Court in Warsaw. Both courts recognised the filed complains as groundless.

There was no protest against the Gniew and EP 44 wind farms during the public information phases.

Luxembourg, 27th May 2020

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The wind farms will not generate any absolute CO₂ emissions. In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology, it is calculated that based on the avoidance of electricity generation from a combination of existing and new power plants in Poland (75% operating margin and 25% build margin), the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO₂ equivalent emissions by 281 kt CO₂-e/year.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year as a proportion of the project cost.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The public consultation was carried out under the EIA process. The promoter has not developed further stakeholder engagement activities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The residual environmental impacts of all project components have been evaluated to be non-significant. They will be mitigated with the help of detailed mitigation measures, as defined in the environmental documents, as is standard in the industry.

Based upon the information available and subject to the above conditions, the project is acceptable for Bank financing in environmental terms.