



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 11th December 2020

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	NEGEV SOLAR THERMAL PLANT
Project Number:	2009-0731
Country:	Israel
Project Description:	Design, construction and operation of a solar thermal power plant with a gross installed capacity of 121 MW on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

The project concerns the implementation of a concentrated solar power (CSP) system with a nominal electrical capacity of 121 MW_e. It applies the parabolic through technology using a heat transfer fluid and molten salt for thermal energy storage. The plant is located in the western Negev desert in Israel, 35 km south of the city of Beer Sheva.

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

The project was subject to an EIA which was approved by the authorities in December 2012. The main environmental impacts identified in the EIA related to effects on local vegetation, avifauna, visual impacts and noise impacts. The project did not entail any physical or economic displacement of local populations and its social impacts were deemed to be overall positive.

The project started its construction in July 2015. An environmental and social plan for construction was prepared. No significant environmental or social issues were noted during construction. During the construction phase, the promoter maintained a stakeholder engagement plan and a grievance mechanism. Complaints and observations were addressed and the promoter carried out continuous awareness activities with the local population to inform them of expected impacts. In addition, the promoter developed a landscape rehabilitation plan, which the local community approved.

The project entered operation on April 2019. An Environmental and Social Management Plan for Operation has been prepared. After the first year of operation, no significant environmental or social issues were noted. The following key environmental and social (E&S) outcomes at project completion are presented with reference to issues highlighted at appraisal.

The project includes natural gas heaters for the heat transfer fluid. The use of natural gas was less than expected due to underutilisation of the heaters. In terms of water needs, the project uses water primarily for the condenser and for heliostat cleaning. In the first year of operation, the water consumption was much less than originally expected. Regarding the project impacts on avifauna, the project did not entail significant impacts.



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During operation, the main impacts to the local population relate to noise. The project has procured independent noise measurements which confirmed that the noise impact of the project is below national standards. During the first months of operation, the noise levels in the noise monitoring station in the neighbouring community was more than the allowed limit at certain times. Remedial actions have been taken to ensure that the noise levels are within allowed limits.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on the reporting from the promoter and inputs provided by lenders' supervisors during construction, that the project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.