



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 1 December 2021

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: UNITED UTILITIES WATER & WASTEWATER (AMP 6-1)
 Project Number: 2015-0026
 Country: United Kingdom
 Project Description:

The programme forms part of United Utilities' capital expenditure programme for the regulatory period 2015-20 (AMP6). The individual schemes are located throughout the entire service area, covering the North West of England from Manchester in the South to the Scottish Border in the North. The Programme is mainly driven by EU Directives as applicable to the water and wastewater sector as well as resources efficiency and adaptation of the systems and infrastructures to climate change and demographic growth.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The Programme was mainly driven by compliance with EU Directives in the areas of water and environment as well as the need to maintain the quality, resilience and effectiveness of services and improve water management against a backdrop of environmental enhancement requirements, predicted localised climate change impacts and demographic developments. The programme aimed at upgrading existing facilities to support compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC), with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD 98/15/EEC), with the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) and with the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC). The project consisted of 140 schemes, which were clustered around the following core investments objectives:

- Core environmental and public health drivers;
- Climate change adaptation;
- Climate change mitigation;
- Supply and Demand – Efficiency;
- Supply and Demand – Supply;
- Water Management; and
- Biodiversity.

The Programme was strongly environmentally driven and therefore had predominantly positive effects on the environment. Most of the works carried out under the Programme consisted of upgrades of existing sites, where the overall impact of construction had been limited. Two of the schemes required an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):

- Anchorsholme Park Wastewater Project
- West Cumbria Water Supply project



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The EIAs and their Non-technical Summaries (NTS) have been received, reviewed and published by the Bank. The competent authority for Anchorsholme Park Wastewater Project was Blackpool Council (idoxpa.blackpool.gov.uk) and for the West Cumbria Water Supply project was Lake District National Park (www.lakedistrict.gov.uk).

An SEA process was carried out as part of a statutory Water Resources Management Plan, and following a public consultation in 2013, it was published in March 2015. The River Basin Management Plans for the area served by United Utilities were adopted in 2016, and were also subject to public consultation. The quality and environmental regulators (UK Drinking Water Inspectorate and the Environmental Agency (EA)) independently monitored compliance with the issued permits and prevailing quality standards throughout and subsequent to the implementation of the programme.

The promoter was United Utilities Water Ltd (www.unitedutilities.com)

The promoter confirmed that all of the schemes in the Programme were in alignment with EU Habitats and Birds Directives, as well as that none of the components had a significant impact in Natura 2000 areas.

The promoter has informed EIB that on 18 Nov 2021 the EA launched an investigation into potential non-compliances with flow to full treatment (FFT) permit conditions at a number of wastewater treatment works, operated by the promoter. The process is in its very initial phase, therefore, it may take considerable time before its conclusions will be made available to EIB.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.

With regard to the ongoing investigation by the EA, even though the Project focused on delivering new assets and as such has nothing to do how the promoter has operated its existing assets, the Bank will closely monitor its progress and outcome, and take appropriate actions, as necessary.