

MOLDELECTRICA STATE ENTERPRISE

Non-Technical Summary

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE MOLDOVA–ROMANIA POWER SYSTEMS INTERCONNECTION PROJECT

**PART 2 FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE SECOND
PRIORITY PROJECT**

**COMPONENT B: BACK TO BACK (BTB) STATION BALTI AND 400 kV OHL BALTI –
SUCEAVA**

May 2023

MOLDELECTRICA State Enterprise
78 V. Alecsandri str. Municipiul
Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

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1. FOREWORD

This document provides a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report (ESIA) of the Moldova - Romania Power Transmission Project in Moldova. The document describes in a non-technical manner how the project could affect the environment and people, and what actions will be taken to avoid or mitigate the effects on the environment or people.

This NTS is part of the larger package of draft documents (the “ESIA package”), including the ESIA report, Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP), a Land Acquisition and Compensation Framework (LACF), an Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan (ESMMP), and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). Beginning on May 2023, these documents will be available in English and Moldovan / Romanian for review and comment. The ESIA and other documents will be available at www.moldelectrica.md, and www.ebrd.com. Paper copies of the draft documents may also be reviewed at Moldelectrica offices at 78 V. Alecsandri str. Municipiul Chişinău, and at the following locations:

Table 1. Disclosure of ESIA package for public review

Item	District / Municipality	Localities	Mail and email address
1.	Bălţi Municipality	city Bălţi city village Sadovoe	City Hall Bălţi Piaţa Independenţei nr.1, mun. Bălţi, MD-3100 https://balti.md/ primaria@balti.md primariasadovoe@mail.ru
2.	Rîşcani district	Corlăţeni village	primariacorlateni@mail.ru
3.	Făleşti district	Pîrliţa village	City Hall Pîrliţa pirlitaprimaria@gmail.com primariapirlita@mail.md
4.	Făleşti district	Făleşti city Obreja Veche commune Hiliuţi commune	District Council Făleşti str. Ştefan cel Mare nr. 50, or. Făleşti, r. Făleşti, MD-5902 www.cr-falesti.md info@cr-falesti.md , crfalesti@gmail.com
5.	Glodeni district	Limbenii Noi village Limbenii Vechi village Fundurii Vechi village	City Hall Limbenii Noi Str. Moldova 70, Limbenii Noi, r. Glodeni, MD-4926 primlimbeniinoi@gmail.com
6.	Glodeni district	Glodeni city Duşmani village	District Council Glodeni str. Suveranităţii nr. 2, or. Glodeni, r. Glodeni, MD-4901 www.glodeni.md consiliu@glodeni.md primariasatdusmani@gmail.com
7.	Glodeni district	Cuhneşti commune Ciuciulea village	City Hall Cuhneşti primariacuhnesti@mail.ru
8.	Glodeni district	Balatina commune	City Hall Balatina c. Balatina, r. Glodeni, MD-4911 Facebook page primariabalatina4811@gmail.com

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Date and hour of public debate for each location will be establish by Environmental Agency of Moldova Republic between June and September 2023.

Written comments on the Project and on documents in the draft ESIA package may be submitted through September 2023. They may be sent by post to Ms. Nelly Melnicenco at the Moldelectrica address above or by email to her at melnicenco@moldelectrica.md. Comments can also be made at public hearings that will be held, in hybrid **format**, at the town halls and dates identified above. If the dates or times of any meetings are changed, that will be announced in the local newspapers and radio stations, and notices will be posted in the town halls and at www.moldelectrica.md.

All comments on the draft ESIA will be analysed and considered by Moldelectrica in developing the final ESIA package, and in the final decisions made by Moldelectrica and the international financial institutions identified below. Further information may be obtained from the Moldelectrica at the address above.

2. INTRODUCTION

To achieve the goals of the Energy Community Treaty, Moldelectrica plans to undertake a series of projects to support an integrated energy market that allows electricity trading across borders and integration with the EU market through connections with the European grid. This second priority project consists in development of a 400 kV overhead power transmission line (OHL) to carry electricity between Bălți and Suceava and a new Back to Back (BtB) station integrated on the new OHL's route, on a free land of approximately 4 ha, located near the existing 330/110/10.5 kV Bălți station. The project developed on Moldova's territory will run through the area of Moldova shown in **Figure 1**.

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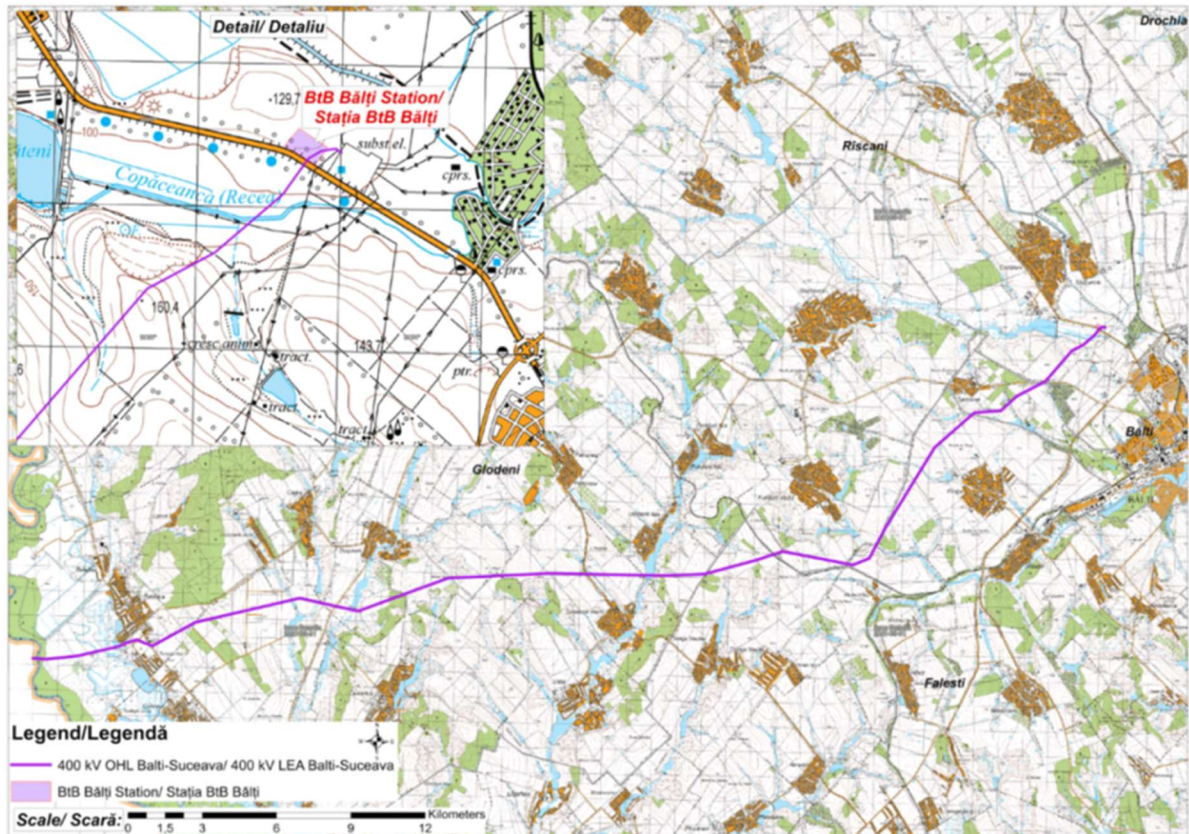


Figure 1. Project's location

Planning studies for the project are being financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Moldelectrica is seeking financing for construction of the project from EBRD and other international financial institutions, including the European Investment Bank (EIB), and possibly others (collectively, “the Lenders”). Under Moldovan law and requirements of the Lenders, the potential impacts of the project on people and the environment must be assessed in an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). This NTS summarizes the ESIA findings that was prepared to meet Moldovan law and Lenders’ requirements.

3. WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

The proposed project will include approximately 48 kilometers of high-voltage overhead power line, a new BtB Bălți station to be connected to the existing Bălți station and modification within the existing Bălți station. The project will include erection of about 157 self-supporting latticed steel towers similar to those shown in **Figure 2**. The towers will be an average of 305 m apart and each tower will have four legs that are up to about 21.6 / 27 m apart. The towers will vary in height according to local conditions, up to about 45 m. Suspension towers will be used where the line is straight, and angle or tension towers will be used when the line changes direction.

Power lines (“conductors”) will be hung on each side of the towers to carry the electricity. The power lines will be up to about 21.6 / 27 m apart. The OHL safety zone required by Moldovan law will be the area under the lines and 30 m to each side, for a

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total safety corridor of 84 m (30 m + 24 m + 30 m). Within that corridor, there can be no occupied buildings but most other activities, such as grazing or agriculture, can continue.

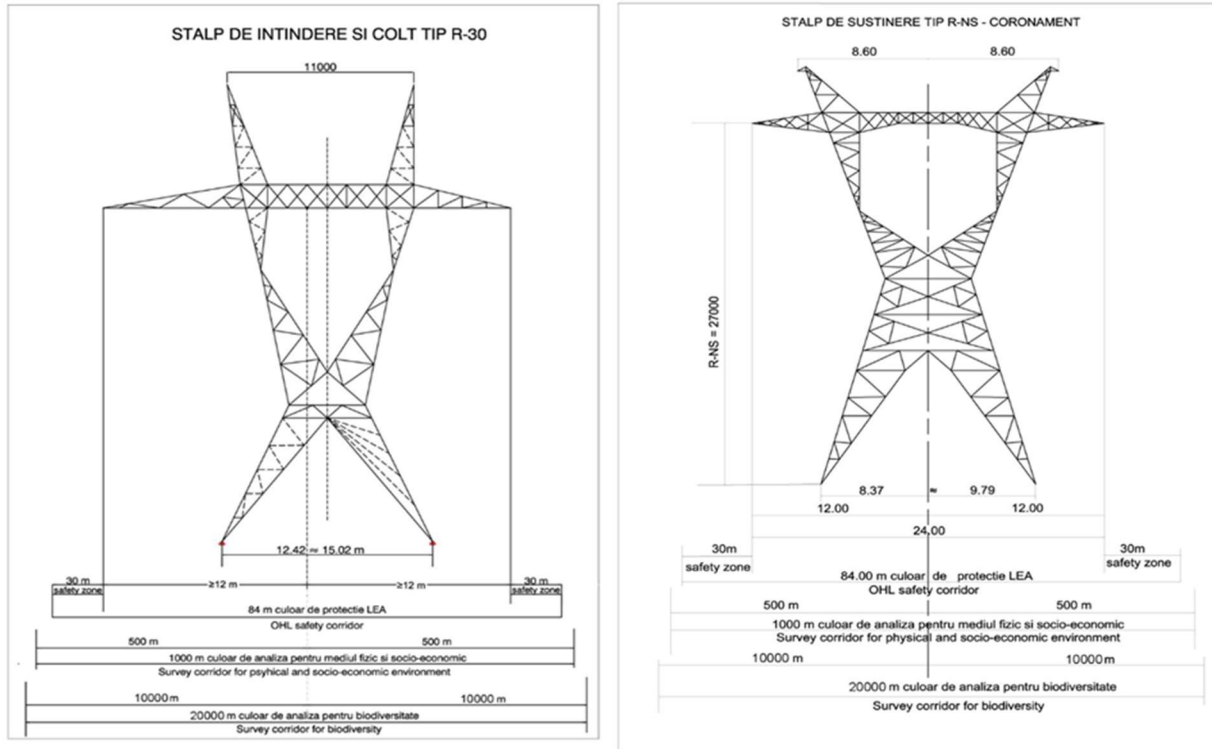


Figure 2. Types of towers that will be used

The existing Bălți station will be extended and adapted for the new 400 kV connection, while a new BtB Bălți station will be constructed on a free land of approximately 4 ha, located near the existing Bălți station.

4. WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BE CONSTRUCTED?

Planning, which includes the feasibility study and the ESIA package, is being completed in 2023. The first phase of implementation will be preparation of the detailed engineering design and the acquisition of land required for the project. This will take up to about 15 months from receiving the start order, or until early 2025. The second phase of implementation will be construction of the transmission line, the BtB Bălți station and modification within the existing Bălți station. Construction of the transmission line is expected to begin after 14 months from receiving the start order and continue for about 16 months, until mid-2027. Construction at the BtB Bălți station is expected to begin after 12 months from receiving the start order and continue for about 21 months, until mid-2027. Construction at the existing Bălți station is expected to begin after 3 months from receiving the start order and continue for about 5 months, until mid-2026.

5. WHY IS THIS DEVELOPMENT NEEDED?

The transmission line is needed to help stabilize and improve the interconnection of power supplies and transmission across Southeast Europe and the Black Sea region. It is also needed in order to integrate the Moldova grid with the European Union (EU) market through connections with the European grid (ENTSO-E, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity). This extension of the EU internal energy policy to this region is called for in Moldova’s national electricity grid development plan, the country’s “Roadmap for Energy Sector”.

6. WHERE WILL THE PROJECT BE LOCATED?

As was seen on **Figure 1**, the project will extend from the new BtB Bălți station located near the existing Bălți station for 48 kilometres through the Glodeni, Fălești, Râșcani districts to the terminal tower of the OHL located on the Romania territory.

A total of 16 settlements have at least one building within 500 m of the line, as shown on **Table 2**.

Table 2. Settlements with buildings within 0.5 Kilometer of the transmission line

Settlement or building	Estimated distance [m]	Population	District	Comment
Balatina	70	4,803	Glodeni	House North West of town
Building between Balatina and Tomeștii Noi	60	NA	Glodeni	Industrial activity, could be unused
Balatina	100	4,803	Glodeni	House South East of town.
Tomeștii Noi	410	*	Glodeni	House in upper South part of town
Clococenii Vechi	1,480	*	Glodeni	Industrial buildings, South of town
Cajba	1,570	1,451	Glodeni	House in south of town
OHL Tower	100	NA	Glodeni	Pylon 100 m from wall, water dam
Dușmani	1,500	1,749	Glodeni	Houses South East of town
Ciuciulea	2,000	1,889	Glodeni	Industrial buildings, North of town
Baza antigrindina (forest area)	450	NA	Glodeni	Military base (according to google earth)
Limbenii Vechi	990	1,555	Glodeni	House in North part of town.
Limbenii Noi	620	1,642	Glodeni	House in South part of town
Fundurii Vechi	1,600	1,749	Glodeni	House in South part of town
Răuțelul Nou	1,000	NA	Falesti	House in the south part of the village
Sovhoz (train station)	1,970	NA	Falesti	Train stop

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Settlement or building	Estimated distance [m]	Population	District	Comment
House close to Pirlita	1,050	NA	Falesti	House south west of Pirlita
Pirlita	1,840	3,351	Falesti	House in North part of town.
Sadovue	620	1,306	Balti	House in South part of town
Complex Vile	230	*	Riscani	House in North west part of community
Corlateni	2,000	5,427	Riscani	House in South part of town
Building opposite substation Balti	126	NA	Riscani	Building on the other side of the road opposite substation.
Bălți	850	97,930	Balti	House closest to substation
* No information provided in the Census 2014 on population				

There are a few places along the proposed OHL route where the transmission line will be close to a house. In the passage between Balatina and Tomeștii Noi, the OHL route is relatively close to existing buildings, but the buildings are still outside of the OHL's safety corridor.

7. WHY AND HOW WAS THIS ROUTE CHOSEN?

Several alternative routes were considered for connection of Romania - Moldova power systems. Many factors were considered in selecting the preferred route which included technical aspects (length of line, number of towers, soil conditions, etc.), socioeconomic aspects (location of villages, land use, etc.), and cultural aspects (archaeological sites, monuments, etc.). The central route of the OHL corridor was selected because it minimized impacts on land use and disturbance to local populations and also reduced the impact on areas that are protected or otherwise considered to be valuable for biodiversity. As much as possible, the route will run alongside other existing linear features such as roads, other public infrastructure sites, and the borders of agricultural fields. The selection of the route also took into consideration the places where it would cross existing medium voltage transmission lines, and crossing locations were selected to reduce the need for land and other disturbances. **Figure 3** shows the location of the OHL route and biodiversity survey corridor (10.0 kilometres on each side of the route) in relation to protected areas.

The location of the new BtB Bălți station was chosen considering technical aspects such as volume of works, intersection with existing lines routes and proposed new route.

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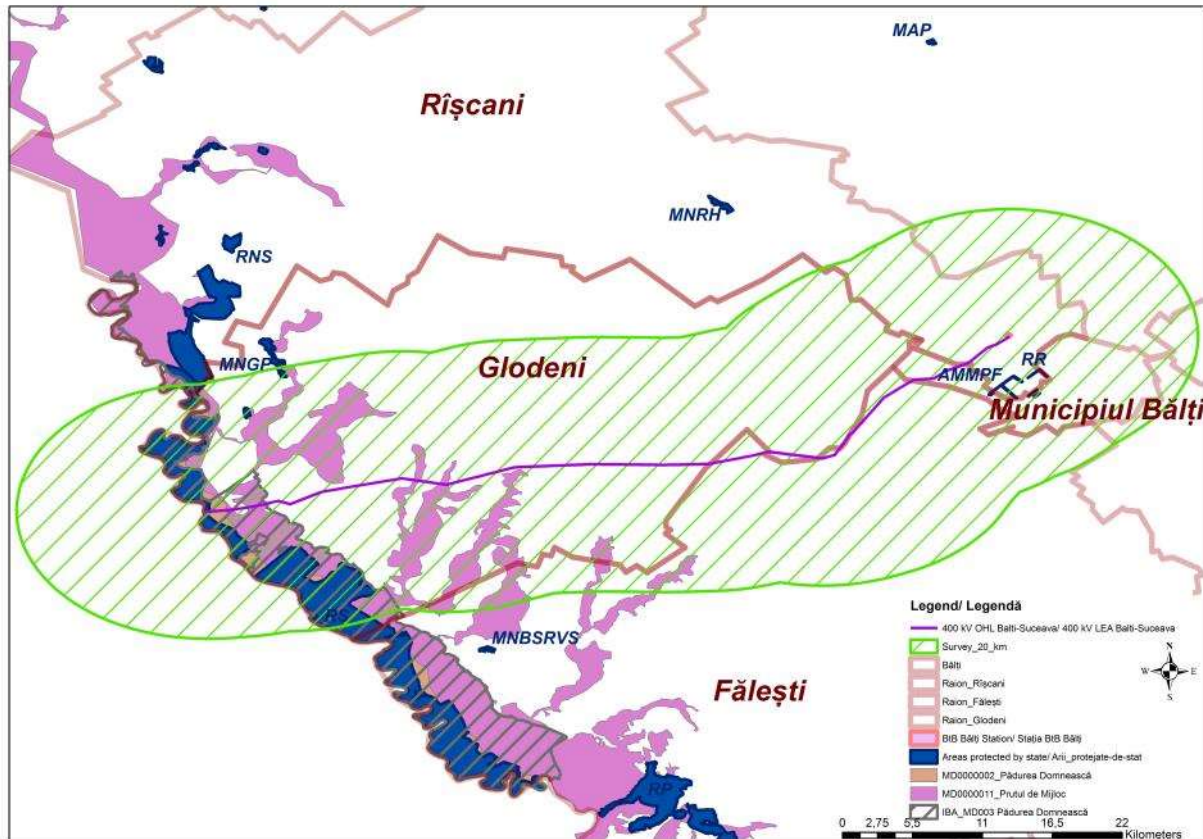


Figure 3. Location of the transmission line route and biodiversity areas of conservation concern

8. HOW WERE THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS ASSESSED?

The ESIA was prepared according to requirements of the Law no. 86/2014 of the Republic of Moldova, “Environmental Impact Assessment”, and the standards of the international financing institutions that are considering providing financing for the project. In general, the ESIA meets the requirements of the European Union’s Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended). The ESIA package was prepared by environmental and social experts under contract to Moldelectrica. The work included:

- Scoping studies to identify potential environmental and social issues and the concerns of stakeholders, including authorities, potentially affected people, and other interested parties. This included document reviews, stakeholder meetings, site visits.
- Baseline data collection, including reviews of reports, collection of GIS data, site visits and online interviews to determine socioeconomic and environmental conditions along the OHL route within a 0.5 kilometre corridor on each side of the route. In addition, more detailed surveys of birds were conducted as part of field observation companies (about 4 companies of 5-7 days each) for monitoring the biodiversity within the OHL survey corridor (10.0 kilometres on each

side of the route).

- Evaluation of potential impacts on the environment and socioeconomic aspects, and identification of measures foreseen to avoid, prevent, reduce, or offset adverse significant impacts (these are called “mitigation measures”). The significance, or importance, of impacts was determined based on their type (direct vs. indirect vs. secondary vs. cumulative), reversibility (reversible vs irreversible) spatial extend (local vs. regional vs. national vs. transboundary), duration (temporary vs short-term vs long-term vs permanent), intensity (low vs medium vs high), and sensitivity of the receiving environment (low vs. medium vs. high). Each impact was then assessed as being negligible, minor, moderate, or major. The same scale was used for negative and positive impacts.
- Development of the Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan in order to address the environmental and social impacts that have been identified as part of ESIA and to ensure that the project comply with national law and international financing institutions framework.
- Development of a framework that defines how compensation will be paid for land that is acquired temporarily or permanently, and for economic losses due to loss of land or access to land.
- Development of the Stakeholders Engagement Plan, as part of ESIA package, for stakeholders’ engagement programs, projects information disclosure and public consultation campaigns.
- Preparation and disclosure of the ESIA package, including the ESIA, this NTS, an LACF, an ESMMP, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

9. WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT?

The project will benefit all of Moldova, as well as Romania and the wider region. The benefits include:

- Increased efficiency of the national power sector, mainly transmission and distribution;
- Improved stability and reliability of the local and regional power system;
- Strengthen the role of Moldova’s power transmissions corridor in the region by building new inter-corridors that are or can be connected to the European system;
- Optimised energy supply in Moldova through the increase in opportunities for other power sources, including clean energy sources, to serve the region;
- Increased security of energy supply versus current dependence on gas suppliers;
- Future compatibility with European electricity networks, thus stimulating the

energy market across the region;

- Short-term employment for local workers.

10. HOW MUCH LAND WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE PROJECT?

Moldelectrica will need to acquire the land on which the 157 OHL's towers and the BtB station will be located. Land will also be needed in two locations along the OHL's corridor in order to store construction materials. Any private land required for these storage areas will be bought or leased from the owners. During the short period of time when the power lines are being hung from the towers, a narrow area between the towers will also be used, no more than a very few days at any location. The BtB Bălți station will be located near the existing Bălți station, on a free land of approximately 4 ha.

Land required for the towers will range from about 65 m² to about 193 m², depending on the type of tower and the height; an area somewhat larger than this, up to about 1,500 m² around each tower, will be affected by construction activities, but only for a few days at each tower. The two temporary laydown/storage areas will each be about 825 m² and will be used for 16 months during construction stage. Altogether, less than 1.4 hectares of land will need to be permanently acquired for towers. The exact tower locations will be selected during final design and the details of how the land will be acquired will be described in the Land Acquisition and Compensation Plan. **Table 3** shows the number of towers located in each District, and the towers position in each of the current land uses.

Table 3. Jurisdictions and land uses where towers will be located

<i>District (jurisdiction)</i>	<i>Number of towers</i>				
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Forest</i>	<i>Vinyards, orchards</i>	<i>Other land</i>	<i>Farmland</i>
Glodeni	102	1	2	17	82
Fălești	32	0	0	4	28
Bălți	10	0	1	4	5
Rîșcani	14	0	0	0	14
Total towers	157	1	3	25	129
% towers	100	0.6	1.9	15.8	81.6

As seen on **Table 3**, most of the towers (129 out of 157, or about 81.6 percent of the total) will be on farmland and only a few (1 tower, or 0.6 percent) on forested land. Because the route was selected to avoid having any occupied houses or other occupied buildings located within the safety zone, no households will have to be moved. Other than the need to prevent tall trees, nearly all other activities can continue to take place within the safety zone, including agriculture, grazing, orchards (with no tall trees).

Moldelectrica will compensate all land owners and users fairly and transparently for the loss of land, and for the loss of land access and use, in accordance with the Land Acquisition and Compensation Framework. The draft Framework is available for public review and comment – it describes the process Moldelectrica will use to acquire land and to compensate people who lose the use of land either permanently or temporarily. The Framework also describes the process for compensating anyone who suffers economic losses due to construction, such as from damage to crops or property, or from accidents involving livestock. Once land has been surveyed and the cadastral and other work has been done to verify ownership and exact land needs, Moldelectrica will develop a detailed Land Acquisition and Compensation Plan. The detailed Plan is expected to be completed by early 2024. Construction will not begin until this Plan is implemented and all land has been acquired or leased and owners properly compensated.

11. WILL THE PROJECT CREATE ANY NEW JOBS?

The contractor will hire temporary workers during construction, many of whom are expected to come from the local area, and there will be some potential for locally sourced supply contracts for general construction materials such as concrete and aggregates. Once construction is complete, operation of the BtB station and maintenance of the line will be performed by current Moldelectrica engineers and staff, although a few new jobs may be created.

12. WHAT WILL BE THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS AND HOW WILL THEY BE AVOIDED OR REDUCED?

As mentioned in section 7 above, Moldovan law and the Lenders require projects to identify the major positive and negative impacts on the environment and people and to develop and implement measures to avoid, reduce, or control those impacts. This can include changes in design, construction methods, and/or operation procedures as well as monitoring to identify negative impacts. It can also include compensation for impacts that cannot be avoided or reduced to acceptable levels.

The potential impacts of the project and the key areas of mitigation are summarized in **Table 4**. In summary, the primary impacts that could occur will include the following:

- Dust from construction activities and air emissions from engines;
- Noise and vibration from construction and traffic, and possibly a humming noise from the operating transmission line;
- Exposure of people to electromagnetic fields (EMF);
- Contamination of surface water and/or groundwater;

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- Erosion and sedimentation (loss of topsoil, water pollution, etc.);
- Risks to workers from hazardous work conditions;
- Risks to local people and communities from site hazards and traffic;
- Disruption of local communities due to in-migration of workers;
- Physical and/or economic displacement of people (resettlement and/or loss of income);
- Damage to protected areas and/or biodiversity, including species and habitats of conservation concern¹. For the towers that will be placed in the Protected Natural Area Pădurea Domnească, the affected areas shall be agreed upon by the ones responsible for the management of the protected area, in such a way that the areas affected are minimal and do not endanger the nesting of important species or populations of important species dependent on the ecosystem.
- Risk of injury or death for migrating and resident birds. The ESIA lists key species of interest present or possibly present in the OHL's survey corridor. The full list of species is contained in the ESIA, including those considered vulnerable to electrocution or collision with power lines. Further studies will be done to verify the ESIA's conclusion that there will be no adverse impact on the designated areas or on the important bird species, and to determine whether further mitigation is required.

Every one of these potential impacts can be avoided, controlled, or otherwise reduced to acceptable levels by the implementation of specific mitigation measures, and in some cases by the preparation and implementation of management plans. The impacts and an overview of mitigation measures are summarized in **Table 4**. The ESIA and the ESMMP provide more details on these and other less important potential negative impacts and more details on the mitigation measures that will be required to avoid or control impacts.

¹ **Figure 3** shows where the OHL route passes through several protected natural areas already included in the national network and the candidate Emerald sites (including IBAs – Important Bird Areas). Bird species of particular concern identified in the survey corridor include several species that are listed as critically endangered (11 species considered vulnerable to electrocution and 14 species considered vulnerable to collisions with power lines). The ESIA contains full lists of bird families/species that may be found in the OHL's survey corridor.

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Table 4. Summary of Environmental and Social Impacts and Key Mitigation Measures

<i>Topic/Resource</i>	<i>Impact Summary</i>	<i>Mitigation summary</i>
Environmental impacts		
Climate and Air Quality	Limited potential impact on air, other than dust and emissions from engines: these would be very local and temporary during construction stage. Some potential for greenhouse gas emissions during the operation stage.	<p>General good-practice mitigation measure to protect air quality and mitigate climate change, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular wetting of roads and stockpile areas; • Speed control on unpaved roads; • Minimise bare earth at open excavation areas; • Quick revegetation of disturbed areas as soon as construction is complete; • Regular maintenance of construction machinery engines; • Prohibition on burning wastes or other materials; • Use of cover sheets on trucks carrying aggregates and soil; • Continual observation of dust levels in dry weather and application of mitigation measures in case of visible dust; • Management of SF₆ containing equipment in accordance with international standards (<i>note: SF₆ is a powerful greenhouse gas</i>).
Surface Water and Groundwater	<p>Potential contamination of water caused by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary sewage from workers; • Spills of fuel and chemicals; • Disturbance of riverbanks and stream; • Erosion from construction sites. 	<p>Good practice mitigation measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No towers within 10 m of permanent surface water (lakes, rivers, streams, wetland); • No towers located in wetlands; • Avoid wet weather work where possible; • No discharges of washwater, sewage, etc. in surface water or groundwater, without a proper waste water management, established by the environmental permit; • Fueling only over designated paved surfaces; • No fueling within 25 m of surface water or wetland; • Spill equipment, bunding, leak control and clean up materials where fuel and chemicals are stored and used; • Prohibit equipment from working in or crossing streams and other water courses; • No washing trucks and equipment in natural water. <p>Implement Land-clearing, Erosion Control, and Site Restoration Plan and Wastewater Management Plan (see below).</p>
Wastewater Management	<p>Contamination of water by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary sewage; • Washwater; • Concrete washings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portable toilets with a proper service contract will be used at worksites; • Proper sanitary facilities at BtB Balti station; • Collect wash water and concrete water, settle/neutralise to meet Moldovan standards before removal, discharge, or use under permit; • Seek permit for use of treated wastewater for dust control; • Requirements will be included in a Wastewater Management Plan.
Land disturbance and erosion	Potential for erosion in wet weather	<p>Prepare Plan for Land-clearing, Erosion Control, and Site Restoration, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark boundaries of work areas and keep work within boundaries; • Vehicles and equipment to stay on approved roads and tracks -- prohibit off-road movement of

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Topic/Resource	Impact Summary	Mitigation summary
		<p>vehicles and equipment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove topsoil and store in designated areas; • Minimise need for cut and fill on steep slopes; • Prevent downslope erosion of spoil with gabions, vegetation, etc.; • Prevent upslope landslides with gabions, vegetation, etc.; • Implement good-practice erosion control measures such as silt fences, settling ponds, flow-reduction barriers, etc. (see EHS General Guidelines); • Inspect work areas after rainfall or snowmelt and repair/improve erosion controls as needed; • Begin land restoration immediately after each tower is erected (that is, do not wait for all towers to be erected before starting), to include: grade land surface to desired contour, remove spoil or grade into natural contours, replace topsoil, plant seeds or plants, and monitor until self-sustaining ground cover of at least 75% is established. <p><i>See also surface water above.</i></p>
Biodiversity	Impacts on vegetation	<p>Develop Vegetation Management Plan to minimize and control tree-cutting during construction stage and vegetation maintenance in the OHL's safety corridor during operation stage.</p>
	Impacts on habitats of conservation concern and birds	<p>Prior to construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement the Monitoring program during construction stage to conduct tower and corridor-specific bird surveys prior to and during construction in areas of biodiversity concern, at times of vulnerability (e.g., breeding season for nesting birds, migration season(s) for migrants) to confirm previous findings and/or identify need for changes or additions to mitigation measures; • Program to be approved by Lenders and authorities; • If results do not confirm previous conclusions, but instead show that priority biodiversity features or critical habitat will be affected, prepare Biodiversity Action Plan that includes site-specific measures (such as moving tower locations, seasonal restrictions on activities at specific locations, enhancements or additions to habitat, etc.) to achieve no net loss/net gain of priority features or habitat (also see EU Habitats and Birds Directives). Plan to be approved by Lenders and authorities; • Implement mitigation measures for birds below. <p><i>See EBRD PR 6 for "priority biodiversity features or critical habitat"</i></p>
	Impacts on birds: collision, electrocution, and other impacts on birds.	<p>Design stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide expert review of tower designs to ensure "bird-friendly" features (such as hanging conductors, air gaps) that minimize risk of electrocution; • For the towers that will be placed in the Protected Natural Area Pădurea Domnească, prior to

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<i>Topic/Resource</i>	<i>Impact Summary</i>	<i>Mitigation summary</i>
		<p>construction start for individual tower, the affected areas shall be agreed upon by the ones responsible for the management of the protected area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified towers where nesting platforms could be places to support nesting (especially for the Danube falcon which is an endangered species according to the IUCN Red List); the nest sites and their configuration shall be determined by experts. <p>Construction stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place bird-avoidance devices – flappers and reflectors – on OHL’s zones identified in ESIA; Install nesting platforms on towers established by experts; <p>Develop and implement a Post Construction Monitoring Program in order to monitor the effectiveness of risk mitigation measures along the OHL route and to implement additional mitigation measures as needed; if birds considered to be “priority biodiversity features” are affected, prepare Biodiversity Action Plan as described above;</p> <p>General mitigation measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit hunting and collection of any plants, animals or bird eggs (etc.); No storage areas or long-term land use in areas of biodiversity concern; Compensate for tree losses by re-planting at least two trees for each one cut.
Community health and safety		
Noise and Vibration	<p>Two potential sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term sounds and vibration from machinery and traffic during construction works; Corona discharge, which can cause a “humming” sound from power lines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Humming” sound fades quickly with distance, and should not be audible beyond about 20 meters; No occupied buildings will be located within the OHL’s safety corridor, reducing impact of construction noise and vibration; OHL construction will be short-term (a few days at a time) at individual tower sites, reducing impact level; General good practice mitigation measures, including mufflers on engines, silencers on pneumatic tools, working only during daylight hours where possible, etc.; Notice to authorities and residents before any work within 200 m of buildings; Night and weekend work only after consultation with local authorities and nearby residents; On-demand monitoring in case of request/complaint, with mitigation as needed to meet noise standards (Moldovan standards and/or World Bank Group General EHS Guidelines).
Electromagnetic Fields/ Radiation (EMF/EMR)	<p>Energised power lines and electrical equipment at substations are surrounded by electromagnetic fields and emit non-ionizing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only short-term exposure to EMF will occur because OHL’s safety corridor will prevent long-term exposure within 30 m of an energised line and within 50-100 m of substation equipment; Published information shows this level of EMF has no significant effect; Monitor EMF if requested by residents within 500

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	radiation.	m of the line; apply mitigation if EMF levels exceed Moldova standards or levels in World Bank Group EHS Guidelines for Transmission Lines.
Community risks	<p>Risks to the public from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to construction sites; • Project-related traffic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In consultation with road/traffic authorities, prepare Traffic Management Plan, to include driver training, speed limits, site-specific traffic controls (flagmen, signs, lights, etc.); the Plan shall be approved by Lenders; • Prevent public access to construction sites and BtB Balti station during and after work hours; • Post warning signs in communities and at work sites, and on all towers; • Consult with community leaders prior to beginning work near populated areas or public roads; • In consultation with local authorities (*police, firefighters, etc.), prepare Emergency Response Plan. The Plan shall be approved by Lenders prior to construction.
Worker influx	Community disruption due to in-migration of workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to construction, develop worker Code of Conduct for local and nonlocal workers for including rules for interactions with communities, training for workers, penalties for violations; the Code shall be approved by Lenders prior to construction; • During construction, consult with community leaders regularly to identify any issues.
Physical displacement (resettlement)	None: no occupied buildings within OHL's safety corridor	n/a
Economic displacement	<p>Loss of income due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of land ownership or access to land; • Damage to crops; • Accidental injury or death of livestock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LACF provides structure for acquisition of land and for compensation for loss of land and income; • Land Acquisition and Compensation Plan to be prepared based on ownership surveys and other cadastral work, and land use. To include a final entitlement matrix; • Plan to be approved by Lenders and competent authority; • Plan to be implemented and all land acquired and compensated prior to start of construction; • Prompt compensation for all losses at replacement cost or replacement of lost property/livestock.
Cultural heritage		
Archaeological sites and monuments, graves, etc.	Tower excavations could damage artifacts or sites.	Develop and train supervisors and workers on Chance Find Procedure. The procedure shall be approved by competent authority and Lenders prior to construction and implemented throughout construction.
Occupational health and safety		
Workers	Injuries or death to workers	<p>Prior to construction, preparation of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Plan, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of hazards from all tasks; • Work planning and design to avoid or reduce risks; • Workplace measures to reduce risks; • Proper safety equipment;

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<i>Topic/Resource</i>	<i>Impact Summary</i>	<i>Mitigation summary</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal protective equipment (only after other methods cannot reduce risks); • Worker training on job risks and control measures; • Special training for high-risk work: working at heights, near water, around heavy equipment, etc.; • Enforcement of PPE use.

13. HOW WILL THE ACTUAL IMPACTS BE IDENTIFIED AND MANAGED EFFECTIVELY?

Moldelectrica has developed an Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan (ESMMP) for the project. The construction contractor will be required to implement all the mitigation measures that are required in the ESIA and ESMMP, as summarized above. A consulting engineer will supervise the contractor’s compliance with the ESMMP and may require corrective actions or even withhold payment until the contractor achieves compliance. Both the contractor and the consulting engineer, and a **Project Implementation Unit** to be set up in Moldelectrica, will employ environmental, social, safety, and communication experts.

The ESMMP will be maintained as a “living” document throughout construction and operation of the project. Even before construction, the ESMMP will be reviewed again after the final design is complete to verify the mitigation measures and management plans can be implemented effectively, and to improve the measures if needed – in no case will the ESMMP be modified to allow additional or more serious negative impacts without the approval of Moldova authorities and the Lenders.

Moldelectrica will be responsible for making sure that contractors fully implement the requirements of the ESIA, the ESAP, the ESMMP, the LACF, and the SEP, and will ensure that both internal and independent audits are undertaken to verify these requirements are fully implemented. Moldelectrica will submit reports that summarise environmental and social performance to the Lenders at least once a year and will also conduct monitoring visits during construction. In addition, the Lenders will require third-party independent monitoring of environmental and social performance twice a year during construction and at least once during the first year of operation.

14. HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT?

Moldelectrica has prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that identifies key stakeholders and describes how they will be provided with information on the project and given the opportunity to express their opinions, and even to submit complaints. The SEP will be kept up to date if activities change or if new activities begin that require stakeholder engagement. It will also be reviewed periodically during project implementation and updated as necessary. The SEP includes the following:

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- A list of key stakeholders, including government agencies, other organizations, private citizens, and other interested parties;
- A summary of past stakeholder engagement activities;
- A summary of Moldovan legal requirements and Lender requirements for information disclosure and public consultation;
- The proposed stakeholder engagement programme, including methods of engagement;
- A grievance mechanism to allow stakeholders to submit comments and complaints. A form that can be used to submit comments and complaints is presented in the last section of this NTS.

Contact information for the project is given below. As noted in the foreword, the entire ESIA package is available for public review at the websites and the locations identified in the Foreword, and there will be public meetings, in virtual format, the end of 2022.

Moldelectrica
Attn: Ms. Nelly Melnicenco
78 V. Alecsandri str. Municipiul
Chişinău
Telephone: +373 22 253396
email: melnicenco@moldelectrica.md

15. HOW CAN I SUBMIT COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE PROJECT?

Comments may be submitted until September 2023 to the address shown in the Foreword and in section 14 above. Moldelectrica will consider each comment before it develops the final ESIA and Lenders will review the final ESIA package before they decide to provide financing.

As described above, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan includes and describes a grievance mechanism which will allow stakeholders to submit comments or complaints about the ESIA package and/or the project to Moldelectrica at the address in the Foreword and section 14 above. The SEP also has a sample form that can be used for comments and complaints—this form is shown on the next table. Either this form can be used, or stakeholders can write a letter or send an email.

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Table 5. Example Form for Submitting Comments and Complaints

<p>Reference No: <i>(to be completed by Moldelectrica)</i></p> <p>Full Name: <i>(to be completed by the person lodging the complaint)</i></p> <p>Note: <i>you can remain anonymous if you prefer or request not to disclose your identity to the third parties without your consent</i></p> <p>Contact Information: <i>(to be completed by the person lodging the complaint)</i></p> <p><i>Please mark how you wish to be contacted (mail, telephone, e-mail).</i></p> <p>Preferred Language for Communication: <i>(to be completed by the person lodging the complaint)</i></p> <p>Description of Grievance: <i>(to be completed by the person lodging the complaint)</i></p>	<p>Received by: _____</p> <p>Date of initial response: _____</p> <p>Solved by: _____</p> <p>My first name: _____</p> <p>My last name: _____</p> <p>Company / position in the company: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to raise my grievance anonymously</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I request not to disclose my identity without my consent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> By Post: Please provide mailing address: _____ _____ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> By Telephone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> By E-mail: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moldovan / Romanian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Russian</p> <p>What happened? Where and How did it happen? What are the results / consequence / impact of this issue? _____ _____ _____ _____</p>
<p>Date of Grievance: <i>(to be completed by the person lodging the complaint)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> One time incident/grievance (date _____ DD.MM.YYYY)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Happened more than once (how many times? _____)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On-going (currently experiencing problem)</p>	
<p>What would you like to see happening in order to solve this issue?</p> <hr style="border: 1px solid black;"/>	

Please return this form filled in to: MOLDELECTRICA - Ms. Nelly Melnicenco, melnicenco@moldelectrica.md