

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>NORTHERN POLAND ENERGY DISTRIBUTION</i>
Project Number:	<i>2012-0420</i>
Country:	<i>POLAND</i>
Project Description:	Modernisation and up-grade of the electricity distribution network of the group, over 2012-2015, in Northern and Central Poland.
EIA required:	Requirement is unlikely; however the possibility exists that EIA(s) may be required on some schemes.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

All project schemes fall under Annex II of the EIA directive, thus implying a review by the competent authorities at the planning/consent stage with due regard to the necessity for an environmental and biodiversity assessment. Relevant regional environmental administrative authorities under the responsibility of the director general of Environmental protection are responsible for determining whether an EIA is required and also issuing the environmental authorisation for the relevant schemes.

The impacts that can be expected for the project schemes relate to visual impact, impact on flying vertebrates, vegetation clearance, electromagnetic fields, noise nuisance, and disturbance during construction. However, the majority of the project schemes will be medium-low voltage reinforcements that will not require formal EIAs and are expected to have minimal environmental impact. Likewise, by virtue of size, nature and location, it is not expected that these schemes will have a significant impact on sites of nature conservation.

The Bank will require the Promoter to undertake not to allocate the Bank's funds to project components that require an EIA until the EIA with the integrated biodiversity assessment has been finalised and approved by the competent authority. An electronic copy of all Non-Technical Summaries (NTS) and of the corresponding authorization decrees must be placed on a web-site of the promoter when the EIA is made available to the public and when environmental authorisation is achieved, and maintained until completion of reporting as required by the Bank.

The Finance Contract shall further require as undertaking by the promoter to store and keep updated any documents as may be relevant for the project supporting the compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The promoter's procedures follow applicable Environmental Legislation (national, EU and International), including EIA legislation to the satisfaction of the Bank. The Polish

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 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

environmental legislation ensures that the competent authorities for nature conservation and Natura 2000 protection are systematically involved in the permitting process.

Environmental considerations have been incorporated in the design of the project schemes from the earliest stages. Line routes and substation locations have been selected so as to avoid as much as possible sensitive areas and to preserve the landscape.

Appropriate mitigating measures will be implemented to minimize impacts during construction and operation. In densely populated areas particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibrations and traffic disruption during the construction works. In proximity of sites of nature conservation importance, construction works and restoration of sites will be executed with great care and avoiding breeding periods of wildlife species.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

The promoter has implemented a responsible approach in its dealings with the natural environment and follows EU and national/regional requirements including public consultation and engagement with key stakeholders. Overall the Promoter's procedures are acceptable.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The environmental capacity of the promoter is deemed to be good. Within the promoter's distribution company there is a specific environmental division whose role is to ensure compliance with national and EU environmental regulations. This division is staffed with appropriately qualified and experienced personnel.