

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: WIEN ENERGIE WASTE TO ENERGY
 Project Number: 20120235
 Country: AUSTRIA
 Project Description: Revamping and extension of the existing 82 MWth waste to energy plant Spittelau located in Vienna.

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: yes

(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

The project falls under Annex II of EIA Directive 2011/92/EU point 13 – any change or extension of projects listed in Annex I or Annex II, already authorized, executed or in the process of being executed that may have significant effects on the environment and hence, the Member State has to determine whether the project has to be subject to an environmental impact assessment.

The existing plant, operational since 1971, was originally permitted on the base of EU pre-accession legislation.

In their evaluation of the permitting needs the competent authorities concluded that the project did not add environmental load and did not exceed thresholds established in the national EIA legislation for enlargements of waste incinerators. Therefore an EIA was not required and the authorities opted for a permitting procedure based on the IPPC and waste management acquis. A justification is provided as part of the development consent (Genehmigungsbescheid issued by the governor of the Region of Vienna on 29.October 2009. The project documentation was made available to the public from 15 to 25 April 2009 and there were no complaints or comments reported as specified in the decision.

Waste will be collected locally from the Vienna region. The plant is included in the regional waste management plan of the Municipality of Vienna for the period of 2013-2018 which has undergone a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in 2012.

According to the provisions of the new IED 2010/75EU², the IPPC permit will need to be reconsidered by the competent authorities before the project's entry into operation in 2015. The plant will be revamped using best available techniques (BAT) for emission abatement. The specifications for the equipment are compliant with the minimum requirements established in the IED.

The plant will be built within the existing building facilities and will thus have only negligible additional visual impact on the landscape. The plant is located within an urbanized area with the closest residential areas at 230 m and the closest office buildings at 100 m from the plant's stake. Because of the project's location, any significant negative impact on any site of nature conservation is considered unlikely.

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.

² Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EC entered into force on 6 January 2011 and has to be transposed into national legislation by Member States by 7 January 2013. The IED repeals the Waste Incineration (2000/76EC), Large Combustion Plants (2001/80/EC) and the IPPC (01/2008EC) Directives. The project plant has obtained IPPC permit but will enter into operation after January 7th 2014.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The waste incineration plant Spittelau was permitted in 1975 according to national, EU pre-accession regulation (Gewerbeverordnung). A fire destroyed part of the plant in 1987 and the re-construction required reconsideration of the construction and operation permits. Due to concerns from the neighbouring public towards the modification/reconstruction of the plant, the competent authorities commissioned an independent Environmental Impact Study which analysed public concerns and recommended to reconsider parts of the permit (Genehmigungsbescheid). This study included a dissipation analysis of air emissions. After settlement of the allegations the plant was permitted according to EU pre-accession legislation. In its current, pre-project configuration, the plant incorporates BAT for emission abatement and is subject to strict monitoring of its emissions on a continuous basis³ and holds an integrated (IPPC) permit for the plant operation.

The project was assessed based on national legislation (Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz 2000 (UVP-G 2000)) transposing the EU EIA Directive into national law. According to that law, modifications of waste incineration plants which imply an increase in waste processing capacity of less than 17500 t/a (50% of the threshold capacity for a new greenfield plant) do not require an EIA. The competent authority has concluded that an EIA is not required and decided to authorise the project under IPPC and waste management legislation.

The total maximum throughput capacity of the plant will be 290000 t/year of MSW, i.e. 14000 t/year higher than the currently permitted amount of 276000 t/year. The revamping of the plant will not result in an increase in its environmental load. The plant incorporates best available techniques for emissions abatement and the emissions to air and water after the reconstruction are forecasted to be similar or lower than with the current permitted plant set-up.

The plant modernisation will bring about substantial energy efficiency gains through improvements in the steam to power and heat systems as well as the targeted improvements in energy recovery in the flue gas treatment system. The increased waste throughput will be compensated by the use of bigger lorries which will avoid an increase in heavy duty traffic. With this the Bank's services therefore, consider the environmental risks appropriately mitigated.

The plant will generate recyclates, bottom and fly ashes, the filter ashes from the baghouse filters and the filtration cake from the waste water (from scrubber) treatment plant. All these are sent to a special processing plant run by the region of Vienna and depending on its waste category sent for appropriate landfill. The metal from bottom and fly ashes ash will be removed and a special vitrification process applied that avoids leaching problems. The filtration cake, which is rich in heavy metals undergoes treatment and is thereafter sent to a special underground landfill in Germany for hazardous waste.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

- The estimated annual emissions of project in a standard year of operation are 126 kt CO₂ per year. These are predominantly due to the fossil fraction within the municipal solid waste that is combusted. Relative emission savings are expected to be slightly above 43 kt CO₂/y and mainly due to elimination of the re-heating step of the flue gas after the hydrotreatment step (wet scrubber) before the catalytic de-NO_x step which was done with the help of natural gas and the increase production of electricity which is sold to the grid and hence leads to the replacement of grid electricity.

³ Emissions can be consulted online under:

<http://www.wienenergie.at/eportal/ep/contentView.do/pageTypeId/11894/programId/21432/contentTypeId/1001/channelId/-25558/contentId/21962>

- *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 project cost.*

Social Assessment, where applicable

N/A

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

After announcement in local press, the project documentation was made accessible to the public from 15.04 – 27.05.2009. No complaints or comments were received. Thereafter, a public hearing was carried out by the competent authorities on the 17.06.2009. According to the minutes of the meeting no issues were raised. Different representatives of the authorities and the company were at the disposal of public to answer questions. The meeting included a visit of the Spittelau Waste to Energy plant facilities but did not attract public attention.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The current boiler building and stack was decorated in the 1980s by the known artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Although the promoter has confirmed that the plant is not under the provision of any heritage protection, the modification will respect and recreate the artistic style of the building in its new parts. For that, the promoter is working with a former collaborator of Hundertwasser.