

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GRDF – Gas Smart Meters
Project Number:	2012-0521
Country:	France
Project Description:	Installing smart gas meters for the GrDF distribution network in France

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

The project entirely related to the gas distribution sector is at its simplest about replacing one type of gas meter with another type. The enhancement in the meter type is such that real time consumption data will be able to be collected via telecommunications and an IT system, allowing for more accurate billing and more opportunities for gas utilisation management.

The project is not subject to an EIA per Directive 2011/92/EU. As regards the telecommunications requirements; the solution has adopted the 169 MHz frequency band dedicated by the EU for remote reading. The project complies with the EU and French Telecommunication Regulator's (ARCEP) standards. An impact study will be carried out in the near future to confirm that the radiation impacts are as envisaged. The 169 MHz band is used for short distances; for the other data transmissions, the national GPRS (mobile telephone) network is used. A scientific committee will be established in order to verify conformity with telecommunication and radiation standards requirements on a yearly basis.

Given the large numbers of meters to be disposed of, the waste management procedures are important. The promoter is defining a policy for managing the disposal of meters and associated materials. This will involve sorting, in an appropriate manner, all the equipment and materials generated during the deployment and thereafter reprocessing all the waste. Two scenarios are envisaged and are under study; either centralised processing of the waste, or decentralised processing of the waste using local SMEs.

The project is acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental standpoint.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter has a well-established health, safety and environmental (HSE) management system, and is ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certified. The promoter undertakes life cycle analysis for its projects (including this one) per ISO 14040:2006 and 14044:2006.

Although the project results in the reduction of gas consumption and thus CO₂ eq. emissions (ca. 100 kt/yr), it is not included in the carbon footprint exercise given that those reductions are from customer demand management rather than any technical aspect of the project itself.

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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.