

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: SNAM RETE GAS INFRASTRUTTURE III
 Project Number: 2013-0179
 Country: Italy

Project Description:

The project consists of the connection of a new gas transmission pipeline between Zimella and Cervignano to around 65 existing consumers (municipalities and industries) in Northern Italy. The length of such connections varies between some 100 m and 10 km, some 80 km in total. This project will disconnect the gas consumers from the old pipelines and connect them to the new one whereupon obsolete pipeline sections will be removed, here in total some 188km. Another component in the present project is the upgrade of the Messina compressor station, which provides compression for gas supplies from Algeria and Libya to Europe. The objective is to replace four old gas turbines with new ones that have lower nitric oxide emissions (NOx), thus mitigating impacts on ambient air and climate.

EIA required: Yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: No

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

All pipeline connection components under this project have been analysed in the environmental impact assessment for the large new gas transmission pipeline between Zimella and Cervignano. This pipeline is financed by the Bank under a previous operation. The EIA incorporates also assessments according to the Habitats and Birds directives; it did not identify significant permanent impacts on sites of nature conservation and has been approved by the competent authority in 2011. The main impacts are typical for this type of activity and relate to construction activities, which are limited in time and size due to the nature of the works envisaged. The removal of obsolete pipeline sections and the reinstatement of the rights of way, likewise included in the mentioned EIA, will have limited temporary impacts similar to the construction of new pipelines.

The replacement of the Messina compression turbines, within the existing compressor site fence and with only minor increase in size as a result of technological progress, does not require an EIA. Size and type of works concern non substantial modifications and will not cause impacts on sites of nature conservation. It was subject to an update of the station's permit under the integrated pollution and prevention provisions. The approval of the improved emission levels was issued by the competent authority in 2011.

Monitoring of the project does not need particular E&S conditions or undertakings under the Bank's guidelines.

Environmental and Social Assessment

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 Assessment

The Italian authorities examined the pipeline connection components together with a major gas transmission pipeline (not in the scope of this project), for which an EIA was conducted as required by Annex I of the Directive 2011/92/EU. The EIA had been submitted in 2009 and included assessments of Natura2000 issues as requested in the Habitats and Birds directives.

Typical impacts can be expected for the pipeline components under this project, mainly temporary ones related to construction works (clearing of rights of way, noise, dust, increased traffic, temporary access restrictions, construction camps and lay-down areas, waste disposal, crossing of highways and rails). These impacts can usually be well managed by appropriate measures taken by the construction company in order to avoid unacceptable nuisance to other parties and the public.

Modern installation technologies such as horizontal drilling will contribute to reducing construction impacts. Pipeline routes are determined in a way to avoid environmentally sensitive areas to the extent possible, and to comply with operational safety requirements. The pipelines will be underground and follow existing rights of way where appropriate, thus maintaining the integrity of sensitive zones, albeit sometimes fractioning areas through the rights of way and above ground block valve stations that are required for proper maintenance and safety reasons. EIA and permit from the competent authority do address provisions required for construction activities in Natura2000 sites concerned.

The replacement of the turbo-compressor turbines is needed in order to comply with upcoming limits for industrial emissions at European and national level (2010/75/EU on integrated pollution prevention and control). Primarily nitric oxides and carbon monoxides will be reduced as a result of improved combustion.

Social Assessment

The main social impacts of the project concern the compensation for leasing rights of way, the purchase of land for above ground valve stations and the compensation for the loss of crops. Compensations are usually set by law. The promoter informed that in several cases it had to enforce rights of way and acceptance of compensations by land owners for the main pipeline through expropriation procedures under the national legal system. Similar issues cannot be excluded for the pipeline connections under this project. Other social impacts are the positive temporary employment effects resulting from construction works.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The promoter informed that the public has been appropriately consulted in the context of the EIA conducted for the Zimella-Cervignano pipeline through notification in local and national newspapers as well as municipality boards. EIA documents have been made available also on the website of the competent authority. Extensive consultation with environmental authorities and other stakeholders was carried out and results incorporated into the design of the pipelines. The promoter is not aware of any outstanding environmental issue that could raise opposition from stakeholders involved.