

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *Revithoussa LNG terminal extension*
 Project Number: *2011-0269*
 Country: *Greece*
 Project Description: *Upgrade of an LNG terminal to increase gas reception, storage and output capacity. The project involves the construction of a third storage tank, the upgrade of the marine facility, the installation of cryogenic equipment and the upgrade of the metering system.*

EIA required: yes

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

Environment:

The project will add elements to an existing installation built on an isolated island whose surface is entirely devoted to the LNG regasification terminal. Due to the new Greek environmental legislation, the project elements were subject to the approval of two different entities with the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) and the overall EIA was split into three components to cater for these circumstances. Eventually, MEECC nominated one entity to be the competent authority for the project in its entirety, which will speed up the processing of the pending documentation.

The EIA for the main component (the additional storage tank) was approved in April 2013, taking five months for the completeness check due to the above considerations. The two other EIAs are being elaborated: the draft non-technical summary (NTS) for the send-out facilities was sent out to the Bank and is expected to be submitted to the MEECC in July 2013, while the EIA for the marine facilities will start beginning of September 2013 with negligible environmental impact expected.

The main impact of this project comes from construction works (noise, dust, vibrations) and is temporary in nature, while identified residual impacts are related to visual impact and release of sea water cooled in the process of regasification. However, the terminal is located on an isolated island and the marine fauna and flora are very tolerant to disturbed environments.

This project will contribute to local employment, mostly during the construction phase. Procedures and results of the third storage tank EIA are acceptable to the Bank. The promoter expects to finalise the send-out upgrade, the marine facilities EIAs and the cumulative impact assessment in 2014.

First disbursement will be conditional on the finalisation of all EIAs and on the assessment of the cumulative impacts of the overall project.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental 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.

The project displays typical impacts of surface storage of natural gas and falls under the Annex II of the 2011/92/EC Directive under which the competent authority has requested an EIA to be performed.

The main impacts of the construction of the third tank result from the construction phase with liquid and solid waste production as well as air pollution due to the excavation process. Noise pollution will be limited and circumscribed to the island. The EIA concludes that there will be no significant residual impact during operations on the aesthetic of the greater area, on the existing and planned land uses or on the terrestrial or marine ecosystems of the region.

The expected main impact of the upgrade of the cryogenic equipment used in the send-out facilities lies in the additional disposal of cold sea water during operation. The EIA will have to conclude on its impact on the marine ecosystem around the island. However, the draft version of the non-technical summary report suggests that the project will have a negligible impact on the marine flora or fauna, and likewise on the Vourkari Bay wetlands, comprising mainly of degraded salt marshes and reed beds. These wetlands are situated 3 km away from Revithoussa and there is no water exchange between the two marine environments and no interaction is anticipated.

The upgrade of the jetty is not expected to have any impact on the environment, during construction or operation.

There are no environmentally protected areas in a radius of several kilometres from Revithoussa island.

The Bank still needs to receive the confirmation from the Ministry that there will be no significant impact of the project on the Vourkari bird nesting area situated in the vicinity of the project, as this area is undergoing a consultation process to acquire a protection status. Also, the Bank requires a conclusion about the cumulative impact of the three sub-projects as these have been studied separately.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The project is included in the EIB Carbon footprint exercise as its savings relative to the best alternative are above the threshold of 20 kt CO₂e/yr.

The project boundaries are limited to the terminal extension, consisting of the four low pressure pumps for the new storage tank, the Open Rack Vaporiser and related pumps. It is estimated that the jetty extension and the LNG storage fugitive emissions are negligible and that there will be no changes in flaring emissions. A 24 h/day, 365 d/y operation has been considered for the calculation. The estimated annual emissions of the project under these assumptions amount to 16 kt CO₂e/yr.

Without the project, the additional gas would be coming in the National Natural Gas System through the other entry points to supply the South of Greece, using an additional compressor. This alternative would produce an estimated 46 ktCO₂e/yr. The expected savings are therefore 30 kt CO₂e/yr.

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.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

There was no opposition raised to the project in the public consultations held in December 2012 during the third tank construction EIA process, neither in Salamina or Megara regional council meetings.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The project will contribute to employment in Greece during the construction period as it is manpower-intensive and can be sourced locally.

Also, the construction of the additional send-out capacities and the third storage tank will contribute to an increased security of supply for the Greek consumer, in case the entry points to the National Natural Gas System in Sidirokastro and Kipi happen to fail in providing their share of natural gas. It will also provide more flexibility to the network during peak times.