

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	SNAM RETE GAS INFRASTRUTTURE IV
Project Number:	20140014
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	The project improves the reliability of natural gas supply and the flexibility of gas transmission in Italy. Compression capacity will be increased in the station of Poggio Renatico through a new 25MW turbocompressor. The flexibility of gas flows will be improved by a new large valve station at Minerbio. Three other components relate to the construction of new gas pipelines, the first one from Minerbio to Poggio Renatico (19km), the second one from Biccari to Campochiaro (73km) and the third one from Gavi to Pietralavezzara (26km). The latter one replaces existing, but obsolete gas lines. Works include here the removal of some 32km of old sections and the re-connection of the respective consumption regions with some 14 short and small diameter lines with a length of 9km in total for regional gas transmission purposes.
EIA required:	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	No

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

All project components have been subject to environmental impact assessments. The various assessments received approvals during the years 2009 to 2013. Pipeline routes are determined in such a way so as to avoid environmentally sensitive areas to the extent possible. The pipelines will be underground and follow existing rights of way where appropriate, thus maintaining the integrity of sensitive zones. Impacts that can be typically expected are mainly temporary and relate 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, rails and water ways). These impacts can usually be well managed by appropriate measures taken by the construction company in order to avoid unacceptable impacts and nuisance to other parties. Some pipeline sections will affect Natura2000 sites and do require installation technologies such as horizontal drilling in order to minimise impacts. The main social impacts will 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. The promoter informed that it might have to enforce in some cases rights of way and acceptance of compensations by land owners through expropriation procedures under the national legal system. Permanent visual impacts will result from the construction of the new valve station at Minerbio, the location of which will also convert 4.5 hectares of agricultural land to industrial use. The new compressor at Poggio Renatico will be located within the existing compression station site. Impacts from the operation of the compressor relate primarily to exhaust gas emissions, which must of course comply with national and EU legislation.

The results of the various environmental assessments are acceptable to the Bank.

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

## Environmental and Social Assessment

### Environmental Assessment

#### Nodo di Minerbio

The new valve station at Minerbio includes mainly valves, gaslines and metering installations. Temporary impacts from this component are small and linked to the construction phase, which will require adequate site management. The visual impact from the new industrial installation will be permanent; it is however located in the neighbourhood of already existing similar installations. Another permanent impact is the conversion of some 4.5 hectares of agricultural land to industrial use. The EIA does not identify significant and unacceptable impacts. The component does also not impact on Natura2000 sites. Next to this component a compressor station might be developed in future, if required by gas transmission hydraulics in Northern Italy. The EIA (approved by the Italian competent authority in 2013) includes the full analysis of this potential future development, assuming that two turbocompressors of 12MW each will be installed. Conclusions are also favourable on this future development.

#### New 25MW compressor in the Poggio Renatico compressor station

The new compressor at Poggio Renatico will be located within the existing compressor station site next to three existing units. Main impacts result from typical construction activities that can be appropriately mitigated (dust, noise, traffic risks). Ongoing operation of existing compressors during the construction of the new unit will require attention to site safety. Impacts from the operation of the new compressor relate to exhaust gas emissions, which must comply with limits specified by law, in particular for NOx and CO concentrations. The EIA (approved by the Italian competent authority in 2013) concludes that construction and operation will not cause impacts on sites of nature conservation.

#### Gas pipeline Minerbio - Poggio Renatico

The pipeline has a nominal diameter of 1200mm, a length of 19km and will be constructed underground. It was subject to an EIA that was approved by the Italian competent authority in 2013. For around 73% of its length the new pipeline will run parallel to an existing pipeline. The rest of the right of way has been identified along criteria that aim at minimising impacts for a new routing. The pipeline will cross primarily agricultural land, exercising typical temporary construction impacts from line preparation and laying activities, including those from access ways and construction camps. These impacts can be mitigated. The right of way will be fully reinstated to the limit of required accessibility along the pipeline route. One above-ground block valve station, necessary for operating safety reasons and typical for this type of infrastructure, will require permanently a small plot of land.

The pipeline will intersect for a length of 1715m with the Site of Community Importance "Biotopi e ripristini ambientali di Bentivoglio, San Pietro in Casale, Malalbergo e Baricella (IT4050024)" in the municipalities of Malalbergo and Galliera, and for some 667m with the Important Bird Area "Valli Bolognesi". The impact assessment concludes that the pipeline runs within these areas only through intensely cultivated agricultural regions without affecting natural precious assets. The construction impacts will be limited and short in time. No impact on the protected sites is expected from the normal operation of the pipeline.

#### Gas pipeline Biccari – Campochiaro

The pipeline has a nominal diameter of 1200mm, a length of 71km and will be constructed underground across the provinces of Foggia, Benevento and Campobasso. It crosses difficult terrain in general, with heights up to 600m and inclinations of 30%. Only 9km can be constructed in flat areas. The required EIA was approved by the Italian competent authority in 2009. The new pipeline crosses mainly agricultural land and follows the route of an already existing pipeline. It will be buried and not induce changes to the categorisation of the agricultural land. Rights of way and land for above-ground installations will typically be rented on a long-term basis. Main impacts relate to construction works, i.e. clearing of rights of way,

noise, dust, increased traffic, temporary access restrictions, construction camps and lay-down areas, waste disposal, crossing of highways, rails and water ways, route reinstatement works. Depending on the particularity of the route conditions, working procedures and technologies can be adapted to minimise unwanted impacts, also in protected areas.

The pipeline will affect the following sites of community importance:

- SORGENTI ED ALTA VALLE DEL FIUME FORTORE (PSIC IT8020010)
- BOSCO DI CASTELVETERE IN VAL FORTORE (PSIC/ZPS IT8020006)
- BOSCO DI CASTELPAGANO (PSIC IT8020005)
- SELLA DI VINCHIATURO (PSIC IT7222296)
- LA GALLINICOLA-MONTE MILETO-MONTI DEL MATESE (PSIC IT7222287)

The length of sections in the protected areas is between 1.4km and 5.5km, which translates into less than 1% of surface utilisation in the respective areas. The underground pipeline sections will thus not affect the integrity of the sites. The assessment concludes that there will be no significant negative residual impact provided that the identified mitigation measures will be implemented. Such measures consist of reducing the construction width, reducing the length of linepipes, the utilisation of smaller equipment and the restriction of working periods, all to result into smaller, more flexible and timely activities with less impact on habitats.

#### Gas pipeline Gavi – Pietralavezzara

This component comprises a new underground natural gas pipeline from Gavi to Pietralavezzara (diameter 600mm, 26km) and related secondary lines of varying length and diameters, all in all 14 sections with a total length of around 9km. The concerned areas are of agricultural nature and forests. The new pipeline sections are not located in environmentally protected areas. The main impacts identified are typical construction impacts that can be mitigated by sound practices. The right of way will be reinstated to the extent possible with the exception of forest areas, where accessibility and safety will require the route to be kept free from large plantings. The component includes the decommissioning of 12 obsolete pipeline sections (of some 32km in total), in majority to be removed, with possibly some short sections to be left in situ, in order to avoid impacting on environmentally sensitive areas in the SIC IT 180026 “Capanne di Marcarolo”. The EIA was approved by the Italian competent authority in 2013.

#### **Social Assessment**

The main social impacts of the project concern the compensation for rights of way, the purchase or renting of land for above ground installations and the compensation for the loss of crops. Compensations are usually set by law. The promoter informed that in several cases in the past 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 outstanding rights of way for this project. At present, some 30%-85% of the rights of way for the various pipelines have been secured. Other social impacts are the positive temporary employment effects resulting from construction works. No particular impacts on sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance have been identified, but findings can of course not be excluded and have to be dealt with on a case by case basis.

#### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The promoter informed that the public was consulted during the EIA process. EIA documents have been made available for this purpose. There don't seem to be any outstanding environmental issue that could raise opposition from stakeholders apart from potential rights of way issues mentioned earlier.