

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>GASUNIE GAS INFRASTRUCTURE</i>
Project Number:	<i>20100418</i>
Country:	<i>The Netherlands</i>
Project Description:	The project is part of the promoter's ongoing investment programme to expand the gas transmission infrastructure in the Netherlands, thus strengthening its ability to meet gas demands in northwest Europe. The investment will cover the construction of the two pipelines—Odiliapeel-Melick (65 km) and Beverwijk-Wijngaarden (90 km)—in the southeast and west of the Netherlands respectively.
EIA required:	YES
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	NO
(Details are provided in section: "Carbon Footprint")	

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

The project components are subject to environmental assessments as required by the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (EIA) and SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, and the Dutch equivalents. The technical specifications of the components (pipelines) mean that they fall under Annex I of the directive requiring EIAs to be undertaken.

This is a typical gas transmission project implemented by an experienced promoter. The project schemes apply proven technologies and no major environmental issues are foreseen. Construction techniques such as horizontal directional drilling will contribute to reducing temporary construction impacts. Where existing rights of way exist, the pipeline routes have been designed to maximise use of these in order to reduce disruptions. A site visit demonstrated that the promoter operates in line with industry standards and permit requirements.

The competent authorities have issued the environmental approvals for one section: Odiliapeel-Melick, whilst those for Beverwijk-Wijngaarden are expected later in 2012. The approvals received to date confirm that the appropriate Natura 2000 and Habitats assessments were undertaken and that there are no significant impacts resulting from either of the schemes. Relevant documents from both sections are available on the Bank's public website. The Odiliapeel-Melick section is acceptable for the Bank, the final environmental approvals for Beverwijk-Wijngaarden are awaited and will be reviewed upon receipt.

The environmental procedures employed by the promoter are considered to be appropriate to ensure compliance with the requirements of the relevant EU and national legislation.

Given that approvals are still awaited for one section, the Bank will include wording in the finance contract to ensure that no Bank funds are disbursed for that section until the required permits are in place and are acceptable to the Bank.

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 and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project traverses or passes close to a few Natura 2000 sites, and the promoter is bound to undertake appropriate mitigating actions in these zones; these include using horizontal directional drilling (i.e. trenchless installation), not disturbing migrations or the breeding periods of species, optimising transport to site, ensuring low impact and maintaining distance limits from certain areas. The approvals detail the areas and the measures required, and are considered to be in line with good practice for such a project.

In addition to complying with legal requirements, the promoter implements a robust HSE management system and is certified to meet ISO 14001 requirements. Audits to maintain certification are undertaken regularly.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Project is not included - the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies only include emissions from Investment Loans, and large allocations under Framework Loans, above the methodology thresholds.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultation has been undertaken as part of the EIA procedures for both components of the project and no objections were received.

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