

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: ENEA Power Grid Infrastructure
 Project Number: 2014-0118
 Country: Poland
 Project Description: Investment schemes in the upgrade and expansion of electricity distribution grid in Western Poland over 2015-2017

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

The programme comprises a large number of electricity distribution schemes from 400 V to 110 kV. Some project schemes fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU) thus requiring a review by the competent authorities at the planning/consent stage with due regard to the necessity for environmental and biodiversity impact and appropriate assessments. The majority of schemes will not require a full EIA. Two schemes have already been screened in and the relevant EIA processes are completed and the environmental permits issued. The screening of one 110 kV line scheme is on-going.

Overall the environmental impacts of the project are expected to be modest and relate mainly to noise, vibration, dust, and traffic disruption during the construction, and electromagnetic fields (EMF) and nuisance during operation. The majority of the programme schemes are refurbishments of equipment and facilities with limited environmental impact.

The environmental capacity of the Promoter is deemed to be good; it has the experience and the capacity to appropriately manage the programme. The programme is acceptable to the Bank in environmental terms.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impacts during construction and operation. In densely populated areas, particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibrations and traffic disruption during the construction works. Typical mitigation measures include also special construction procedures to minimize damages, construction of facilities to contain oil leaking from transformers and other. The Promoter is experienced and capable to mitigate the impacts to an acceptable level through their Environmental Protection Management procedures.

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.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

This project's absolute emissions amount to 55,000 t of CO₂ per year. The relative emissions including the rest of the network's losses are estimated to be -135,000 t of CO₂ per year. The reduction in the relative emissions derives from decreased losses due to refurbishment.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Promoter has implemented a responsible approach in its dealings with the natural environment and follows EU and national/regional requirements including public consultation and engagement with key stakeholders. The Regional Forest Authority submitted comments on protected areas to one of the projects during public consultation; the comments resulted in additional analysis and specific conditions imposed in the environmental permit to protect these areas.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter has developed an environmental protection management IT tool comprising the environmental contamination bank which includes modules related to the air, rainfall, water, sewage and information on changes in the environmental regulations.

Conclusion

In the event that a programme component to be financed with the Bank's funds requires a full Environmental Impact Assessment, the borrower will undertake to not allocate the Bank's funds to this component until the EIA with the integrated appropriate assessment has been finalised and approved by the competent authority. In such a case, an electronic copy of a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Environmental Impact Statement must be sent to the Bank (for review and publication on the Bank's website).

The Promoter will undertake to store and keep updated any documents as may be relevant for the project supporting the compliance with the provisions under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and shall upon request promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.