

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: Ljubljana Waste Treatment
 Project Number: 2013 0455
 Country: Slovenia
 Project Description: The project consists of construction of a waste treatment facility for residual waste and source separated bio-waste, and a leachate treatment plant and new disposal cell at the existing Barje landfill. The new facilities will serve 33 municipalities in central Slovenia with a population of around 630.000.

EIA required: Yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: No

(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 project comprises a new regional waste treatment facility and upgrade and expansion of the existing landfill that will serve the capital Ljubljana and surrounding municipalities. The new facility will receive residual waste, source separated bio-waste and bulky waste and in the process recover recyclable materials from the residual waste input. Organic materials separated from the residual waste in the facility and source separated bio-waste will be separately digested, enabling energy recovery from bio-gas and production of both a good quality compost and digestate. Solid recovered fuel (SRF) will be extracted from the residual waste for use in off-site third-party facilities. The project also comprises a new landfill cell for residues and a new leachate treatment plant.

The project will increase waste recycling and recovery in the region and divert biodegradable waste from the landfill in line with relevant EU targets. It will also enable recovery of electricity and heat from biogas and landfill gas, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect water resources and ecologically important areas surrounding the landfill site.

The project is in line with a National Waste Management Plan that has been subject of an SEA.

The project components fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive, and have been screened-in by the competent authority (except for the leachate treatment plant). A full EIA including public consultation has been completed for the waste treatment facility and an environmental permit was issued in March 2014. Environmental permit for the landfill cell was issued in 2001 after public consultation and completion of the EIA procedure.

Adverse impacts on environment are primarily expected during the construction stage, and will be mitigated by conventional practices in the sector.

Overall, the project is judged to have a net positive environment and social impact considering its contribution to increasing materials and energy recovery from waste and to

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.

decreasing the environmental and climate change impact from current landfill disposal of residual waste. The project is thus acceptable to the Bank from this point of view.

The site is adjacent to Natura 2000 areas on two sides, which were designated after the start of waste disposal operations at the site. Following an appropriate assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the Competent Authority has deemed that the project will not have any significant adverse impact on these areas.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project is known to the competent authorities as *Regijski center za ravnanje z odpadki Ljubljana* - RCERO (Regional Waste Management Centre Ljubljana). It comprises the following components:

- a. A waste treatment facility comprising i) a Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant receiving municipal residual waste, commercial and industrial waste, and bulky waste with a nominal capacity of 149 kt/year, and ii) an anaerobic digestion facility receiving separately collected bio-waste, with a nominal capacity of 22 kt/yr,
- b. Landfill leachate treatment plant (capacity 520 m³/day),
- c. New landfill cell (4.9 ha and estimated volume of 885,000 m³)

The project is included in a national waste management plan, which has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The project also is being implemented under the Operational Programme Environment and Transport Infrastructure 2007-2013, with EU co-financing. This Programme was subject to an SEA.

The project components have been separately subject to EIA processes. Environmental impacts have been identified and assessed with regard to impacts on air, primarily considering odour, noise impact, primarily considering the gas engines and equipment in the waste treatment facility, impact on flora and fauna, impact on soil, and impact on the surrounding Natura 2000 area.

Environmental permits have been granted to relevant project facilities according to Slovenian legislation.

The waste treatment plant was subject to a full environmental impact assessment, where the EIS was published, consulted with the public concerned and approved by the competent authority. The environmental permit no. 35402-14/2013-30 was issued on 16 December 2013.

The project site is in the east and west bordered by a Natura 2000 area, protected according to the Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC). While the project is located outside the Natura 2000 sites, the influence of the project includes Special Protection Area – Ljubljana Marshes (SI 5000014), Special Area of Conservation and potential Special Area of Conservation Ljubljana Marshes (SI 3000271), potential Special Area of Conservation Ljubljana-Gradascica-Mali Graben (SI 3000291), landscape park Ljubljana Marshes and nature monument *Pot spominov in tovaristva*. Nature conservation consent has been granted. In addition, the formerly named Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, currently known as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment, acting as a competent authority for Natura 2000 sites, declared, following its assessments, that the project is not likely to have any significant effect on these sites.

The project is expected to have an overall positive net environmental impact, notably through considerable contribution to the integrated waste management in the catchment area of 630,000 inhabitants. New cells of the sanitary landfill will provide safe disposal compliant with applicable EU standards. The leachate from the landfill will be treated, including through nano-filtration prior to the discharge to the sewerage network. No loss of habitat or change in habitat, or change in water regime is expected. There will be an increased emission of noise during operation phase, but mitigation measures are expected to reduce it to the acceptable levels.

The project is expected to have some minor negative impacts during the construction/implementation period which will be mitigated through standard practices and procedures.

EIA and public consultation have been carried out in accordance with Slovenian regulations, which are understood to be in line with the EU EIA Directive. Since the competent authority has extended environmental consent to the waste treatment facility and the landfill, and since the leachate treatment plant is judged not to give rise to significant adverse environmental impacts, the environmental impacts of the Project are considered to be acceptable.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project facilities will be constructed on a site that today is used for waste management activities, with no residents in the near vicinity.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

The EIA reports for the waste treatment facility and landfill were announced and published for a one month period as required. The NGO Alpe Adria Green provided comments and questions during the public consultation process but has rested their case following discussions and clarifications during the consultation process.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project Promoter - Snaga JP d.o.o. established an environmental management system according to ISO 14001 standard.

Environmental permits set standard comprehensive conditions for the protection of environment during construction and operation phase.