

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Dolomiti Energia Networks & Hydro
Project Number:	20120068
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	Investments for the upgrading and development of the gas and electricity distribution networks and small hydro power installations in the Trentino Alto Adige region over the period 2012-2016.
EIA required:	EIA may be required in some cases
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 gas and electricity distribution project is a typical one and applies standard technologies which are undertaken by an experienced promoter. The main impacts occur during construction, are temporary in nature, and are mitigated according to established practices in the sector. Hydro projects relate to the rehabilitation and repowering of existing power plants and to the construction of new small run-of-river hydro plants and all have minimum negative environmental impacts. On the contrary some of these projects will generally positive environmental impacts, notably by reducing GHG emissions through the generation of additional renewable energy from hydro.

All the project components fall under Annex II of Directive 85/337/EEC and its amendments as transposed into Italian legislation. Most of the planned components do not meet the requirements for an EIA however for some hydro schemes a screening decision from the competent authority is still pending. For this reason a condition has been included in the contract in the event that an EIA may be requested by the competent authority for a project component. The condition requires that the promoter completes any EIA or nature conservation area impact assessment and receives approval from the competent authorities prior to allocating the Bank's funds to the project component, and that copies of the relevant documents, including the consents, are furnished to the Bank.

The project's environmental basis is acceptable for Bank financing.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

All the projects follow the applicable EU, national, regional and provincial environmental legislation. The Trentino Alto Adige and its provinces of Trento and Bolzano enjoy special autonomy rights under the Italian Constitution and, within the perimeter of EU and national legislation, can determine more specific sets of rule. The Provincial Law n.28 of 29/08/1988 and the subsequent Provincial Decree n.13-11 of 22/11/1989, as subsequently amendment to incorporate EU and national law requirements, establish for each industrial sector the limits above which projects are subject to EIA screening or to mandatory EIA. The project includes a multitude of small network and power plant components. The promoter's environmental

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.

capacity is very good due to its experience in the sector and the specific attention it devotes to environment. It also holds ISO 14001 certificate for its power generation activity

None of the proposed gas and electricity distribution investments are subject to EIA screening. Their environmental impact is very limited and concentrated during the construction period. As far as hydro generation is concerned plants with a nominal installed capacity greater than 130 kW are subject to an EIA screening procedure. Out of the six small new hydro plants that the promoter will construct, two of them (Mori and Malga Bissina) have already been screened out from EIA while for the other four (Picante, Pian Palu, Ala and Malga Boazzo) the screening decision is still pending. The environmental impact of these new SHPPs will be very limited because of their small size (between 0.2 and 1.7 MW) and because they will not entail neither the creation of new reservoirs or dams nor the deviation of the water courses. In fact the SHPs will be built downstream of existing dams to exploit the environmental flow which is already being released through their spillways. The new SHPs will include a dedicated intake channel that will in fact provide a long term technical solution for the environmental flow release as the spillway gates were not designed for such a purpose.

None of the projects are planned to be located inside or close to nature conservation areas so no impacts on biodiversity are expected.

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, where required

In case any of the projects are eventually screened in by the competent environmental authorities and become subject to an EIA procedure they will also go through the public consultation procedure which is established by the above mentioned provincial laws in compliance with national and EU legislation.