

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	SOUTHERN WATER AND WASTEWATER AMP6 - I
Project Number:	2015-0033
Country:	United Kingdom
Project Description:	Southern Water provides water and sewerage services to a population of approximately 2.4 (water) and 4.5 million (sewerage) people, respectively, in the south-east of England, including the counties of Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The programme comprises investments to improve the water supply and wastewater collection and treatment systems to support compliance with EU Directives as part of Southern Water's regulatory investment programme AMP6 (Asset Management Plan 6) as approved by the economic regulator OFWAT in 2014.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

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

The programme aims at upgrading existing facilities to support compliance with the EU the Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC), with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD 98/15/EEC), with the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) and with the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC). The Programme is strongly environmentally driven and therefore has predominantly positive effects on the environment. As most of the works to be carried out under the Programme consists of upgrades of existing sites, the overall impact of construction will be limited. None of the individual schemes selected under the Programme requires an EIA.

The Promoter complies with the requirements of EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EC, as well as Articles 6(3) and/or 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC). The Promoter is used to carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment procedures where required by the competent authorities and mitigating measures are applied as appropriate. An SEA was carried as part of a statutory Water Resources Management Plan and published in 2014. The quality and environmental regulators independently monitor compliance with effluent discharge permits and drinking water quality standards.

The Programme is considered sound for EIB financing.

The Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA according to EU and national law without, prior to commitment, submitting the EIA and the non-technical summary of the EIA to the Bank for review and publication on the Bank's website. The Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme that may have potential effects on a site of nature conservation importance, without receiving and informing the Bank of the

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.

conclusions from the relevant Competent Authority of the appropriate assessment carried out according to Articles 6(3) and/or 6(4) of the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Promoter is an appointed water and sewerage company. Statutory duties with regard to the protection of the environment are embedded within key legislations for the UK water industry, including duties in relation to conservation of biodiversity and natural habitats.

As required under the UK Water Act, the promoter has built its investment planning on a Water Resources Management Plan with a long-term view of the availability and demand for water throughout the service area. This was prepared for AMP6 in 2014 and subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Compliance with applicable Environmental Legislations (national and EU), including EIA legislation is inherent to the definition of the investments programme, with close cooperation between the environmental and economic regulators. The industry economic regulator OFWAT, as well as the Environmental Agency and the Drinking Water Inspectorate closely monitor the investment programme from planning to implementation and operation, ensuring cost-effectiveness and compliance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC), the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD 98/15/EEC), the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) and the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC). The Promoter also complies with the requirements of EU EIA Directive (2011/92/EC) (when required), as well as Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC). The Promoter carries out Environmental Impact Assessment procedures where required by the competent authorities and mitigating measures are applied as appropriate.

The Programme is strongly environmentally driven and therefore has predominantly positive effects on the environment. The various schemes included in this Programme aim at upgrading water supply and wastewater collection and treatment to maintain compliance with EU directives. Most of the investments are taking place on existing installations and have limited local environmental impact. None of the schemes under the Programme requires a full EIA. The Programme is considered sound for EIB financing.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultation takes place at all levels of the definition of the investments and their detailed roll-out, starting with consultation for the key planning documents such as the Water Resource Management Plan and proceeding with the definition of the major schemes during the scoping and implementation phase. Given the necessary tight controls of implementation in order to maintain delivery of the capital programme within the agreed regulatory timeframe, early identification and resolution of environmental consenting issues are crucial to delivery of the investment programme. In particular, it is sought to maintain close relationships with the competent authority with identification of potential Habitats/EIA Directive issues already at inception stage. None of the schemes under this programme requires a full EIA.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Southern Water was awarded in 2008 an ISO 14001 certificate on environmental management. It has been reviewed annually by auditors since then and covers day-to-day operations as well as capital investment programme for water supply and wastewater. The audit conducted described Southern Water environmental management system as “very professional and robust” and “effectively implemented throughout the organisation”. The audit concluded that Southern Water demonstrated continual improvements across a range of subjects, including fire prevention on site and informative chemicals management. It also praised regular updates of their Environmental Management System manual to reflect changes in environmental legislation.