

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *ACEA EFFICIENZA RETE III*
 Project Number: 2015-0220
 Country: *Italy*
 Project Description: *Investments to reinforce and extend the electricity distribution network in the Rome metropolitan area during 2016-2019.*

EIA required: yes for 4 schemes:

- 150 kV line Roma Sud – Castel Romano
- 150 kV line Roma Nord – Bufalotta
- 150 kV line Flaminia/O – Cassia
- 150 kV line Roma Nord – San Basilio

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 is a multi-component investment programme comprising the implementation of a large number of schemes in electricity distribution. The programme is located in the Rome metropolitan area.

The programme comprises the construction of 25 km of 150 kV network (overhead lines and underground cables), the refurbishment of 9 km of HV underground cables, the development or replacement of 2,600 km of MV and LV network, new substations and transformers as well as other operations of refurbishment, reconstruction or modernisation of existing facilities.

The programme schemes concern facilities operated at voltage levels up to 150 kV. For MV and LV networks, the programme schemes will mainly concern underground cables. Some programme schemes fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU), which requires the competent authority to determine the need for a full EIA. None of the schemes are expected to affect a European site for nature conservation. Given the screening performed by the competent authority, four schemes are subject to a full EIA.

For three of them (lines Roma Nord – Bufalotta, Flaminia/O – Cassia and Roma Nord – San Basilio) a full EIA has been conducted and the consents were granted by the competent authority. The environmental impact analysis carried out along with the conclusions of the EIA consents indicate that, subject to the implementation of specified mitigation measures and conditions, the schemes would neither have significant adverse effects on the environment nor adversely affect the integrity of any European site in view of the site's conservation objectives. For the remaining scheme (line Roma Sud – Castel Romano) the EIA is in progress.

Based on the information available, the programme is expected to have minor negative residual impacts and thus is acceptable in environmental terms for Bank financing.

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

Environmental and social considerations have been incorporated in the design of the projects from the earliest stage. Line and cable routes as well as substation locations have been selected so to minimise proximity and crossing of sensitive areas.

A large portion of the programme will involve the implementation of underground cables with limited social impacts. No significant impacts have been identified. During construction, the environmental impacts are expected to relate to dust, noise, vibration, traffic disruption and vegetation clearance. Environmental impacts during operation will concern electromagnetic fields (EMF), noise disturbance and impact on flying vertebrates. When relevant, appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impacts. This includes measures to contain the effect of noise during operation, specific maintenance procedures to minimise potential leakage of SF₆ and coordination with local authorities and property owners. During excavation works, particular attention will be paid to potential impacts on cultural heritage sites. In densely populated areas, particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibration and traffic disruption during construction works. Regarding the schemes relating to works in substations, contamination from oil leakage of transformers is mitigated through the appropriate design of bunds.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter is certified to meet ISO 9001, 14001, 50001 and OHSAS 18001.

Bank Environmental Conditions

The promoter undertakes not to allocate the Bank's funds to the programme components that require a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) until the EIA with the integrated biodiversity assessment has been finalised, approved by the competent authority and sent for review to the satisfaction of the Bank.

The promoter shall store and keep updated any documents as may be relevant for the programme supporting the compliance with the provisions of the EU EIA, Habitats and Birds Directives and shall upon request promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.