Luxembourg, 17 November 2015

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	*WINDPARK PRETUL*
Project Number:	*2015-0519*
Country:	*Austria*
Project Description:	*Construction and operation of a 42 MW windpark in the state of Styria, Austria.*

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]: 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

In 2013, the Styrian government has put in place a Wind Power Development Plan which identifies preferential zones for wind farm development. This Plan is based on a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and in line with the objectives of the Alpine Convention. The project is located in one of the Plan's preferential wind farm development zones.

Wind farms fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. It is therefore up to the Member State's competent authority to judge whether an individual wind farm requires an EIA or not, based on criteria defined in Annex III of the EIA Directive. The project has been screened-in according to Austrian law and underwent an EIA process. It is fully permitted with no appeal pending since January 2015.

The wind farm is located on top of a mountain ridge, adjacent to a protected site under national law (Schwarzriegelmoos). Key areas of concern during authorisation and consultation were the project's visual impacts, impacts on the protected "grouse" bird (a species listed in Annex I of the EU Bird-Directive 79/409/EEC, living on mountain ridges), impacts on the adjacent protected site, risks to human health when ice is being thrown off turbine blades, impacts on an adjacent alpine hut and impacts on bats. All are appropriately mitigated through conditions included in the permit and supplementary commitments made by the promoter.

The promoter has a very high environmental and social management capacity.

In summary, this operation is considered to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Styrian Wind Development Plan („Entwicklungsprogramm für den Sachbereich Windenergie") is the outcome of a multi-annual consultation process run by the Styrian government that takes into consideration multiple screening criteria (nature conservation, landscape protection, spatial planning, wind conditions). It identifies several zones for wind farm development in Styria on the basis of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA concludes that significant environmental impacts can be excluded for all preferred

[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.

development zones. However, appropriate mitigation measures are still likely to be required inside each zone, particularly in relation to wildlife, leisure/tourism, biodiversity and landscape. These must be defined in the course of subsequent project-specific authorisation processes. The Styrian Wind Development Plan was implemented by law in August 2013.

The project is located inside the Plan's preferential zone "Pretul", in the vicinity of two other existing wind farms. This project site is adjacent to a nature conservation site "Schwarzriegel-moos" but far distant to any other nature conservation site. The closest Natura-2000-site is ca. 8 km distant to the project. The project's export cable is projected as a buried cable, following mostly existing infrastructures.

In line with Austrian law (UVP-Gesetz), the project has to undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The corresponding Environmental Impact Study (EIS) assesses all relevant impacts including those on soil, ground water, biodiversity, birds and bats, landscape etc. Cumulative impacts were taken into consideration as appropriate.

In September 2013, the promoter applied for environmental consent. The competent authority in charge is the Styrian government. In the course of 2014, the EIS was finalised during consultation with relevant authorities, their experts, and the public. It is comprehensive and addresses all relevant risks. Third party concerns raised during consultation were dealt with and accounted for by the competent authority and its expert advisers.

In December 2014, the competent authority issued the environmental permit to the project. In January 2015 it entered into force with no appeal raised in the meantime. The consent comprises a comprehensive set of conditions which address, amongst others, the following key issues which were also in the focus of consultation:

- Impacts on the bird species "grouse" (Raufuβhuhn =Auerhuhn, Birkhuhn, etc.) which lives on mountain ridges including in the project area. Mitigation: The site is in line with the recommendations of the Styrian Wind Development Plan. Preferred development zones are deliberately located outside particularly sensitive bird habitats. In addition, project-specific measures are put in place. Amongst others, micro-siting of turbines respects existing grouse migration paths. Such information is available from long term monitoring at a neighbouring wind farm. Further, any construction activity above the tree line is forbidden during the mating and breeding season (01 November till 30 April). Lastly, improvements of the living conditions for the grouse on around 200 ha in the project area must be implemented, and the promoter is obliged to pursue a 10 year monitoring programme related to the grouse.

- Impacts on the nature conservation site "Schwarzriegelmoos" (a moor) which already suffers from grazing cattle and an established touristic walkway that cross through it. One turbine is just 40m away from this protected site. Impact mitigation on project-level is firstly foreseen by constructive measures to ensure that no additional water drains off the moor because of the project. Secondly, the promoter commits to implement defined long-term ecological restoration measures inside the moor and to protect the moor from future impacts caused by cattle and tourists though additional measures.

- Visual impacts are generally high for turbines on mountain ridges. This is also true for this project, but mitigated by the fact that this project is located in the proximity of two other existing wind farms. The Styrian Wind Development Plan seeks to bundle wind projects in certain areas with existing infrastructures in order to protect the majority of landscapes from visual impacts.

- Two turbines are located around 700m away from an alpine hut. Various concerns were raised by the hut operator (an NGO) during consultation. Mitigation: Sound and shadow flicker impacts are to be kept below legal thresholds, supported by additional measurements after wind farm implementation, a ground water quality monitoring campaign is to be pursued during construction, and the promoter voluntarily commits to additionally put in place mutually agreed measures to maintain or enhance the touristic attractiveness of the site.

- Given the alpine location of the project, there is an increased risk of ice pieces being thrown off turbines. This could hurt people in the turbines' proximity. Mitigation: All wind turbines are equipped with ice detectors. As soon as ice has been detected, the affected turbine will be switched off and de-ice. During this period, warning lights will indicate that people shall not approach the turbine. Corresponding warning signs are to be installed around the project site. Further, touristic walkways through the wind farm site must be clearly marked to avoid areas of high ice throw risk.

- The project site is not featuring a high bat activity but minor impacts on this protected species may still take place. Mitigation: No construction works are allowed during night time. During operation, several turbines must be automatically shut-down during defined ambient conditions. A two year bat monitoring campaign aims to refine the shut-down algorithm.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The direct CO2 equivalent emission of the project is negligible.

In accordance with the Bank's Carbon Footprint methodology it is calculated that the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions by 47 kt CO2e/yr. This calculation assumes that 75% of generated electricity substitute power generation in existing fossil fuel based power plants whilst 25% substitute power generation in new gas-fired combined cycle power plants.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter's environmental and social management capability is deemed very high. Its core business is the sustainable management of forests in Austria. It has a comprehensive sustainability policy in place and maintains close relationships with the stakeholders and citizens in its areas of activity.

In line with Styrian law, construction activities will be observed by independent experts in order to ensure full compliance with permit conditions.

PJ/ECSO 28/09/2015