

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Eesti Energia Windaparks
Project Number:	20110108
Country:	Estonia
Project Description:	The project consists of the construction and operation of two onshore wind farms Narva (39.1 MW) and Paldiski (22.5 MW) located in Estonia. The total capacity of the proposed project is about 62 MW.
EIA:	Required

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

Wind farms fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 84/337/EC and its amendments. The proposed wind farms under this operation have been screened-in and have followed an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure according to Estonian Law, which complies with EU EIA directives. The competent authorities granted approval for the projects in 2008 (Narva) and 2011 (Paldiski), after extensive public consultation. These confirmed that the projects will not have any significant negative impact on the environment including nature conservation sites, subject to the permit conditions. All the relevant documentation has been analysed by the bank and considered satisfactory. This has been confirmed for both wind farms by the Competent Authority who on the Bank's request has issued a written declaration that, following an appropriate assessment, according to Art. 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC, the project will not have significant negative effects on a site of nature conservation importance.

At Paldiski the Authorities require 2 years of post-construction monitoring of birds and bats, with special detectors to be used for bat monitoring. This has been reflected in the undertaking proposed by the Bank.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Impact and Mitigation

Environmental considerations have been incorporated in the design of the project schemes from the earliest stages. The wind farm sites have been selected so to avoid as much as possible sensitive areas and to preserve the landscape. Further to that, appropriate mitigating measures will be implemented to minimize impacts during construction and operation.

Both projects are located near two Natura 2000 Special Protection Areas: Pakri (located c. 5km away from Paldiski) and Puhatu (located c. 20km away from Narva). The main conclusion is that the projects have no negative cumulative effect. Migratory birds have been identified as a potential issue at Paldiski wind farm. Surveys conducted by the Estonian Ornithological Society on behalf of the promoter proved that the birds follow the coastline, with nearby islands deflecting the birds away from the peninsula where the wind farm will be built.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

All wind farms under this operation were subject to broad inter-service and public consultation. No appeals were submitted during the authorization procedures. Concerns in relation to the potential impacts of the projects, namely on birds or caused by noise, were taken into account by the Competent Authority and mitigated through corresponding permit conditions and project design.