

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	UNITED UTILITIES WATER & WASTEWATER (AMP 6-1)
Project Number:	2015-0026
Country:	United Kingdom
Project Description:	The programme forms part of United Utilities' capital expenditure programme for the regulatory period 2015-20 (AMP6). The individual schemes are located throughout the entire service area, covering the North West of England from Manchester in the South to the Scottish Border in the North. The Programme is mainly driven by EU Directives as applicable to the water and wastewater sector as well as resources efficiency and adaptation of the systems and infrastructures to climate change and demographic growth.
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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 the 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. Some of the schemes under the Programme will require a full EIA and the promoter shall comply with EU and national environmental legislation. During implementation of the Programme, NTS will be provided to the EIB for publication. The Programme is considered sound for EIB 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.

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. Some of the schemes under this programme require a full EIA and the promoter shall comply with European and National regulation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The programme aims at upgrading existing facilities to support compliance with the EU 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. Most of the works to be carried out under the Programme consists of upgrades of existing sites, where the overall impact of construction will be limited. However, some individual schemes selected under the Programme will require an EIA and the promoter shall comply with European and National regulation.

The Promoter complies with the requirements of the 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 process was carried out as part of a statutory Water Resources Management Plan and published in March 2015, which was publicly consulted in 2013. River Basin Management Plans are also available for the area served by United Utilities, which are also subject to public consultation. 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 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.