Luxembourg, 18.12.2012

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	RTE - TRANSMISSION NETWORK UPGRADE
Project Number:	20110629
Country:	France
Project Description:	Multi component investment Programme covering the period 2012-2016 aimed at reinforcing the electricity transmission infrastructure of France. It consists of seven electricity transmission projects geographically dispersed throughout France, including the new 400 kV line Cotentin-Maine, reconstruction and capacity increase of the 400 kV line Lonny-Seuil-Vesle (Champagne-Ardenne) and 225 kV line Pratclaux-Riviere (Rhône-Alpes and Auvergne), capacity increase through reconductoring of the 400 kV transmission corridor between Lyon and Montélimar, reinforcement through underground cables of the 225 kV networks supplying the French Riviera and the south of Pays de Loire and installation of shunt capacitors at various locations across France. Overall the Programme includes 1,184 km of new/reinforced overhead circuits, 163 km of new underground circuits and 3 new substations.

EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

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

By their technical characteristics some projects of the proposed Programme fall under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive. According to the decisions made by the French competent authorities, all projects, except the installation of capacitors and the reconductoring Lyon-Montélimar, require Environmental Impact Assessment.

The authorisation processes are at various stages depending on the project. The line Cotentin-Maine and the reinforcement of the French Riviera have been already granted the corresponding permits (DUP, Déclaration d'Utilité Publique). The reinforcement in Pays de Loire is at public enquiry stage with DUP expected within the first half of 2013. As regards the reconstructions of the lines Pratclaux-Riviere and Lonny-Seuil-Vesle, the areas of least impact for both projects have been validated and DUP are expected respectively within the second half of 2013 and the first half of 2014.

The environmental impact analyses carried out indicate that, with appropriate mitigations in place, no significant long-term impacts are expected to result from construction and operation of the above projects. According to the requirements of the relevant French legislation, the environmental process of the projects has involved/shall involve a high level of transparency and public consultation. Further to that, experience from past operations shows that the environmental capacity of the promoter is strong. Finally, by supporting the integration of low carbon generation (wind and nuclear) into the grid, the Programme will contribute to reduce CO2 emissions.

The Programme is therefore acceptable to the Bank in environmental terms.

The Finance Contract will require undertaking by the promoter not to allocate Bank's funds to the projects Lonny-Seuil-Vesle, Sud Pays de Loire and Pratclaux-Riviere until the corresponding DUP will be granted.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Environmental considerations have been incorporated in the design of the projects from the earliest stages. Lines/cables routes and substations locations have been selected so to minimise proximity and crossing of human settlements and of sensitive areas and to strictly comply with current regulations concerning electromagnetic fields. Further to that, appropriate mitigating and compensating measures have been/will be planned and implemented to minimise the impacts of the projects during construction and operation.

A number of support measures will be implemented to improve the social acceptance of the projects. These include measures for landscape integration of new substations, burial of existing distribution lines to compensate for the visual impact of new lines, availability of promoter to purchase houses located within a distance of 100 metres from the axis of new lines and indemnifications for visual damage to people owning homes in proximity of new lines/substations.

As regards the natural environment, flight diverters will be installed on ground wires to avoid birds' collision in sensitive areas. Felling and trimming of trees will be done in a selective way and, as necessary, compensatory plantations will be realised. In proximity or in case of limited crossing of sites of nature conservation importance, construction works and restoration of sites will be executed with great care and avoiding breeding periods of wildlife species.