

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *ENEDIS ADVANCED METERING*
 Project Number: *2015-0516*
 Country: *France*
 Project Description: *ENEDIS' investments in advanced metering infrastructure during the period 2016-2019.*

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

The project is part of the national advanced metering implementation programme for electricity, also known as *Linky*.

The project comprises the installation of ca. 23 million electricity advanced meters from 2016 to 2019 that will allow remote readings, near real-time consumption information and better management of the electricity distribution network. The project will enable to improve operator's efficiency as well as customer information and awareness.

Environmental Assessment

The project is not subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment per Directive 2011/92/EU. The telecommunication system will use PLC² protocols for the communication between meters and concentrators and GPRS³ networks for the communication between concentrators and IT systems. The project is in line with the national and EU standards.

The main impacts of the project relate to electromagnetic radiation and to the disposal of the old meters being substituted by this project.

Tests carried out by the promoter indicate⁴ that the PLC communication of the *Linky* meters does not increase the public exposure to electromagnetic radiation. The first conclusions from the French agency for frequencies – *ANFR*⁵ – suggest⁶ that exposure levels to electromagnetic radiation from *Linky* meters are very low and remain well below regulatory

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.

² Power Line Communication, communication technology that uses existing electrical wiring to transmit data

³ Global Packet Radio Service

⁴ http://cired.net/publications/cired2015/papers/CIRED2015_0922_final.pdf

⁵ Agence Nationale des Fréquences

⁶ http://www.anfr.fr/fileadmin/mediatheque/documents/espace/2016-05-30_Rapport_technique_compteur_vdef2.pdf

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limits and *ICNIRP*⁷ reference levels. *ANFR* also notes that communications between meters and the system are of short duration (less than one minute every night plus periodic pulses of 0.1s). Further tests will be conducted by *ANFR* including exposure levels from the concentrators that are located in secondary substations and field measurements in private households. A review⁸ of health effects from radio waves has been prepared by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety – *ANSES*⁹ – in October 2013. *ANSES* notes that exposure to radio waves produced by advanced meters is very low, especially compared to mobile phone communications. With regards to potential health effects of radio waves in general, *ANSES* considered that to date there was no evidence to revise the regulatory exposure limits. Further assessment is expected to be conducted by *ANSES* and published.

Appropriate procedures have been established to streamline the disposal process of the old meters and reduce the environmental impact of the waste disposal.

Social Assessment

Several associations and organisations lodged an appeal to the French Supreme Court for administrative justice – *Conseil d'Etat* – against the ministerial Order dated 04/01/2012 on electricity advanced metering systems. One of the subjects of the claims was the exposure to radio waves produced by advanced meters and potential risks to health. The *Conseil d'Etat* ruled¹⁰ that in the absence of circumstantial evidence in terms of potential risks to health, the precautionary principle should not impede the roll-out.

Regarding data privacy issues, the French data privacy authority – *CNIL*¹¹ – published a set of recommendations¹² in November 2012. These recommendations have been taken into account by the promoter to develop the *Linky* programme. In November 2015, *CNIL* has issued a positive opinion on the processing of load curve data.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter is certified to meet ISO 9001 and 14001. The promoter has developed an environmental management plan and has established an action plan to follow up its implementation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Whilst the project may facilitate energy savings, in itself the project is not expected to have significant impact on CO₂ emissions.

The Bank reviewed the environmental and social capacity of the promoter including its organisation, processes and procedures, and deemed them to be good. Based on the information available, the project is expected to have minor residual impacts and thus is acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.

⁷ International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection, independent organisation providing scientific advice and guidance on the health and environmental effects of non-ionising radiations

⁸ <https://www.anses.fr/fr/system/files/AP2011sa0150Ra.pdf>

⁹ Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail

¹⁰ Décision du Conseil d'Etat : <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichJuriAdmin.do?idTexte=CETATEXT000027198463>

¹¹ Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés

¹² <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCnil.do?id=CNILTEXT000026958542>