

Luxembourg, 19 July 2016

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: ELDEPASCO NORTHWIND OFFSHORE WIND
Project Number: 2009-0682
Country: *Belgium*
Project Description: The project consists of the design, construction and operation of a 216 MW offshore wind farm. The wind farm will be built on a sand bank located at ca. 37 km from the harbour of Ostend on the Belgian coast. The wind farm concession will occupy an area of approximately 14.5 km² with water depth between 16 to 29 meters.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

The project concerns the implementation and operation of a large-scale offshore wind farm.

At authorisation stage, the main potential impacts identified related to ship traffic, local and migrating bird populations as well as local sea mammals, fish, benthos and invertebrates. In addition, temporary effects were expected on the local environment due to piling activities, cable laying, noise and vibrations during the works.

The permit requested the project to carry out a detailed environmental monitoring programme in cooperation with specialised government agencies, consultancies and neighbouring wind farms. This monitoring targets physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the marine environment, coordinated through the Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models (MUMM). For example, in 2013, a report was published which presents an integrated overview of all scientific findings of the monitoring programme with the specific aim of drawing lessons to optimise future monitoring programmes. It is available here: <http://odnature.naturalsciences.be/winmonbe2013/report>

As of today, the Project's initial four year environmental monitoring programme has been completed and did not indicate any significant negative impact on the marine environment. No significant environmental or social issues were reported during the implementation of the project. All relevant permits and licenses are in place and no additional conditions were imposed by the authorities.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter, and inputs provided by Lenders' Supervisors during Construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards applicable at the time of appraisal.