

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: VIOTIA WIND PARKS
 Project Number: 2016-0077
 Country: Greece
 Project Description: Construction and operation of a 50MW onshore wind park portfolio comprising three wind farms located in the wider Tanagra municipality in Viotia, Greece.

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: yes

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project concerns three wind sub-projects with a total installed capacity of 48.6 MW in Viotia (Greece). It consists of 18 wind turbines (8 for one windfarm and 5 each for the two additional ones). The windfarms will connect to two existing substations through approximately 16.5 km of underground cabling.

The wind farms will be erected on mountain ridges with low vegetation. Compliance with spatial planning is checked at the Electricity Production License stage being the first license to be obtained by any project.

Onshore wind farms fall under Annex II of the EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, leaving it to the competent authority to determine whether or not a full EIA is required. For projects which are likely to have major impact on the environment (classified as category A1) the responsible licencing authority in Greece is the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Projects under the other two categories A2 and B are assessed at a regional level and licenced by the general secretary of the relevant decentralized administration. The three projects were screened-in by the regional environmental authorities.

All 3 projects including their grid connection have undergone independent EIAs in 2014. No significant negative impacts have been identified in the environmental impact studies. Main impacts expected are temporary during construction (noise and dust) and landscape and visual during operation. These potential impacts have been analysed comprehensively through the authorization process and deemed acceptable. One of the projects is located in Forest area and a second one in a reforestation area. To this end, there are special terms imposed on the SPVs by the ETA which needs to be respected during construction and operating period. This includes a reforestation plan to compensate for trees removed.

The wider area where they will be implemented is not part of the Natura 2000 Network. There is no Special Protected Area for the birds and avifauna, nor exist Sites of Community Importance for the flora. Nearest protected site is 5km distant. Cumulative impact with another existing project has been analysed and deemed acceptable. The project is not in any major bird migration route. Formal compliance of the EIAs with the relevant directives will be reviewed in stage II.

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.

In 2015, all three projects received their Environmental Terms Approval (ETA) from the regional authorities.

Details of the EIA processes, including public consultation, require further analysis. The Bank is not aware of any appeals against the projects.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The estimated emissions savings are 99.8ktonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year. The project provides intermittent power generation in a market with low growth. It is therefore assumed that 75% of generated electricity is replacing power generation in existing fossil fuel-based power plants (operating margin – emission factor for Greece 913 tCO₂/GWh) and 25% of generated electricity is replacing power generation in new combined cycle gas power plants (build margin emission factor for CCGT 913 tCO₂/GWh)².

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost¹.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on a preliminary review it is concluded that this operation is likely to be acceptable to the Bank from an environmental and social point of view. Environmental loan conditions (if any) will be defined after completion of the Bank's environmental due diligence and prior to financial close,

² Estimated annual emissions of project in a standard year of operation: – absolute (gross) and relative (net) figures in kT CO₂e/year. Carbon Footprint Methodology used: Version 10.1, dated April 2014