

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	GAS IMPORT FACILITY LITHUANIA
Project Number:	20120490
Country:	Lithuania
Project Description:	Construction and operation of a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) import facility on the Lithuanian coast at the ice-free port of Klaipėda. The facility comprises a floating storage and regasification vessel (FSRU), an offshore jetty including gas handling facilities and a pipeline connection of ca. 18 km (including 3 km of horizontal directional drilling) to the Lithuanian gas grid.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

During the initial stage of the project the Lithuanian government initiated consultations with the neighbouring countries since the project was planned to be 3 km from the border. The location finally chosen is 46 km from the Latvian border in an existing port with no trans-border impacts.

During approval of the final design, issuing of construction permit, and the final check, 20 authorities were involved in the approval process since the project is located close to environmentally sensitive areas including Natura 2000 sites. The promoter provided at the Bank's request a declaration from the competent authority responsible for monitoring sites of nature conservation importance that the project is not likely to have significant impact on sites of nature conservation.

The Curonian Spit is also a World Heritage site and the projects sites at the eastern side of the Spit. Therefore, as part of the EIA a heritage impact assessment was carried out in accordance with the Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties. It was concluded that there would be no adverse impact on the "Outstanding Universal Value" of the site, and neither on landscape, cultural heritage objects, air quality, surface or underground water, soil and subsoil, fauna and flora, social environment or public health. However, the subsequent monitoring mission by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) concluded that some of the information on the LNG terminal was not shared in due time with the World Heritage Centre; and that there wasn't sufficient information concerning information-sharing with the other State Party concerned (the Russian Federation) with regard to the EIA.

The environmental permit required the construction of a stable, hydraulically calculated sub-water threshold at the boundary of the area of the Klaipėda Strait, to prevent the washing out of the Curonian Lagoon's bottom and to preserve the stability of the Curonian Lagoon's ecosystem. Klaipėda State Seaport Authority notified the promoter that the works were successfully completed to the required standard.

Due to significant difficulties with "horizontal directional drilling" under the sea bed of the lagoon, an alternative temporary pipeline was used, but no separate EIA was required since the pipeline was in operation for less than 1 year.

During construction the contractors implemented all environmental impact mitigation measures which were included in the environmental management plan. The jetty contractor performed monitoring during fish migration period while the piling works continued, and no impact on fish migration was identified.

The state Inspectorate issued the Construction Completion Act for the jetty; no permit from the environmental authorities was needed for operation of the jetty.

The Environmental Protection Agency issued a permission to operate the FSRU by providing the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Permit.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards applicable at the time of appraisal.