

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	Hungary - Slovakia Interconnection
Project Number:	20110392
Country:	Hungary
Project Description:	The project consisted of the construction and operation of the Hungarian section of the TEN-E Hungary-Slovakia gas interconnection. It comprised a natural gas bi-directional transmission pipeline (+/-92 km) and associated infrastructure between Vecsés (some 17km southeast from the centre of Budapest) and Balassagyarmat (at the Slovak-Hungarian border).

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The project was a typical gas transmission project applying proven technologies. As requested by the environmental authority an EIA had to be undertaken in order to obtain the environmental permit for the project. The EIA, including assessments of potential impact on Natura2000 sites as required by the Habitats and Birds directives, concluded that there would be no significant negative residual impacts provided the identified mitigation measures are properly implemented.

The disbursement of the EIB loan was conditional on the environmental and construction permits. The environmental permit was issued in August 2012 by Central Valley Environmental and Nature Protection Inspectorate.

The promoter reported no environmental and social issues during project implementation and confirmed that the appropriate mitigation measures for the typical impacts during construction had been taken. However, after the completion of the construction two environmental issues occurred, both of them being effectively resolved.

The first one was related to several local complaints about the noise emission of the compressor station in Szada during the test runs. The promoter conducted measuring tests during the noisiest operating period and the measurements proved that the noise emission level was in compliance with the relevant regulations. The measurement results were adopted by the environmental authority, the complaint was closed, no fine was imposed to the promoter and no further complaints were received thereafter.

The second issue arose when a fire engine partially sank next to the Ipoly River's dam. The investigation showed that it happened because of the inadequate reinforcement of an abandoned borehole next to the river. The river crossing of the gas pipeline was done using horizontal drilling. The abandoned borehole was the result of an unsuccessful pipeline pull-in attempt performed by the subcontractor. After the incident with the fire engine additional restoration works were conducted by the contractor of the pipeline construction in coordination with the Central Valley Environmental and Nature Protection Inspectorate. By September 2015, the restoration works had been completed and approved by the licensing authorities on both the Hungarian and the Slovakian side.



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The works did not compromise the environment and the river. Waste generated in the course of the restoration work had been dispatched and disposed in accordance with regulations.

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.