

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: SOREGIES ENERGY NETWORKS & RENEWABLE GENERATION  
Project Number: 2017-0173  
Country: France  
Project Description: SOREGIES investment plan comprising renewable generation, smart metering, gas and electricity networks extension and rehabilitation

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: yes

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

### Environmental and Social Assessment

The Project is a multi-component and multi-sector investment programme to be implemented over the period 2017-2021. The Project is geographically distributed throughout five departments (Vienne, Indre, Indre-et-Loire, Maine-et-Loire and Vendée) of the regions "Nouvelle Aquitaine" and "Centre Val de Loire" and comprises the following components:

- ❖ Rehabilitation and extension of the electricity distribution network, including the implementation of a smart metering system;
- ❖ Extension of the gas distribution network;
- ❖ Construction and operation of one windfarm (Chaunay) and four solar photovoltaic power plants (Dangé Saint Romain, La Massone, Pindray and Saint Sauveur) totalling 42MW.

### Environmental Assessment

#### Smart metering, gas and electricity distribution sub-projects

One sub-project involving the construction of a new 90/20 kV power substation in Le Laitier (Vienne department) falls under Annex II of the EIA Directive (Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU) and will require an Environmental Impact Assessment. Given their technical characteristics and sizes, the other sub-projects are not listed under Annex II of the EIA directive and do not require an EIA. They however have been/will be subject, as necessary, to environmental analyses in the process for the authorization to build and operate.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 19.09.2017

Overall, the environmental impacts of the sub-projects under this investment category are expected to be minor and related mainly to the construction phase. Appropriate mitigating measures will be implemented to minimise such impacts in accordance with the applicable regulations. These include, but are not limited to, containing noise, dust, vibrations, emission of gaseous pollutants and traffic disruption as well as proper management of construction waste materials.

#### Renewable generation sub-projects

All the renewable generation sub-projects underwent Environmental Impact Assessment and have been granted favourable EIA decisions. With the exception of the solar PV in Saint Sauveur, building permits have been granted to all sub-projects in compliance with the French Decree 2009-1414 (19/11/2009), ICPE Decree 2011/984 (23/08/2011), Decree 2014/450 (02/05/2014) and the Order dated 18 December 2009 that define the approval process for ground mounted solar photovoltaic plants and wind projects.

The sub-projects are located in rural areas or on former industrial sites, away from Natura 2000 sites or other sensitive areas.

Each individual sub-project entails limited local impacts on fauna and flora, landscape, soil and groundwater and has no substantial cumulative impacts. The EIAs generally recommend adequate preventive, corrective and mitigation measures during the construction and operation phases.

#### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

Based on the average generation figures of the windfarm and the solar power plants totalling 76.2GWh per annum, the relative emissions savings are estimated at 51000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year.

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 cost.

#### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

The Promoter has confirmed that no resettlements shall be necessary for the construction of the aforementioned substations, lines and/or wind and solar projects. The wind project is located away from populated areas.

#### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

On 30 April 2014, following a cost benefit analysis, the “Commission de Régulation de l’Energie” issued a public hearing report for the smart metering project. In July 2014, they issued a decision supporting the project implementation subject to performance criteria to be achieved by the distribution system operator and a target of 90% of the smart meters installed by 2021. The decision applies to the present project.

Besides, the promoter has successfully carried out public consultation for each of the sub-projects related to renewables.

#### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The environmental management capacity of the promoter is strong, as reflected by the ISO-14001 standard certification that they have obtained.

Luxembourg, 19.09.2017

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The Bank is overall satisfied with the low negative environmental and socio-economic impacts of the Project. It will be carefully monitoring all the outstanding studies required, to ensure that these are in line with the Bank's Environmental and Social Standards.

### Undertakings:

- The Bank will require the Promoter to undertake not to allocate Bank's funds to Project components that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) until the EIA and/or the necessary biodiversity assessment have been finalized, satisfactory to the Bank, and approved by the competent authority. When the EIA is made available to the public, an electronic copy of the full EIA study shall be sent to the Bank.
- The Promoter shall undertake to take into account and implement conditions expressed in any screening-out decision or EIA consent granted by the competent authority for nature and environment.
- The Promoter shall undertake to store and keep updated any documents as may be relevant for the programme supporting the compliance with the provisions under the EU Habitat and Birds Directives and shall promptly upon request deliver such documents to the Bank.

Based on the information available, and with appropriate environmental conditionality included in the Finance Contract (aforementioned conditions), the programme is deemed to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.

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