

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: SNAM RETE GAS INFRASTRUTTURE VI
Project Number: 2017-0209
Country: Italy
Project Description: The Programme comprises part of the investment programme of the Promoter for 2017-2019, namely, 16 individual gas transmission project schemes spread across Italy. These project schemes include reconstruction, refurbishment and replacement of existing gas transmission system assets, installation of odourisation systems for industrial customers and constructing new pipelines with the related connections to extend the transmission network.

EIA required: yes (for some of the project schemes)

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Based on the technical characteristics of the project schemes and the criteria and thresholds defined in the national legislation six out of the sixteen project schemes are subject to environmental authorization process including environmental impact assessment with integrated appropriate assessment of impact on biodiversity. Four project schemes received already the environmental approvals and for the remaining two project schemes the environmental authorization is expected later in 2017.

The works concern primarily gas pipelines and compressor stations. Pipeline routes are typically determined in a way to avoid environmentally sensitive areas to the extent possible. The pipelines will be underground and follow existing rights of way where appropriate, thus maintaining the integrity of sensitive zones. Impacts that can be typically expected are mainly temporary and relate to construction works (clearing of rights of way, noise, dust, increased traffic, temporary access restrictions, construction camps and lay-down areas, waste disposal, crossing of highways, rails and water ways). These impacts can usually be managed by appropriate measures taken by the construction company in order to avoid unacceptable nuisance to other parties and the public. To the extent that components might affect sensitive areas, particular installation technologies such as horizontal drilling might be used in order to minimise impacts. No permanent visual impact is expected to result from the various components of this programme. Typical impacts from the operation of compressors relate primarily to exhaust gas emissions, which have to comply with European and national legislation.

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.

Luxembourg, 24/07/2017

None of the programme components will affect Natura2000 sites.

The project schemes related to the compressor stations will improve environmental performance. Two obsolete compressor units will be replaced by state-of-the-art new equipment with higher efficiency, better operational performance characteristics, improved waste handling and reduced CO₂ and NO_x emissions. At two compressor stations the old boilers will be replaced with new gas engines with co-generation capacities providing energy efficiency benefits and emission savings. The network extension will allow supplying natural gas to new customers to replace more polluting fuels.

Social Assessment

The main social impacts will concern the compensation for leasing rights of way and the compensation for the loss of crops. In certain cases the Promoter might have to enforce rights of way and acceptance of compensations by land owners through expropriation procedures under the national legal system.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultation and publication of the authorities' decisions are mandatory under Italian legislation for environmental impact assessments. Accordingly the public was consulted during the EIA process and the EIA documents have been made available for this purpose. There don't seem to be any outstanding environmental issues that could raise opposition from stakeholders apart from potential rights of way issues, which could be handled in accordance with national legislation.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Bank has already had several operations with the Promoter who provided evidence of sound practice with respect to environmental management and confirmed that all new projects are assessed for environmental impact. In addition to systems to meet regulatory requirements, the promoter has a comprehensive environmental management system which assesses new projects and monitors on-going operations. For project components to be implemented in areas with significant archaeological and urban heritage, the promoter has processes in place to ensure that the reinstatement of excavated areas is carried out rigorously, that the surface disturbance is minimised and in any case reinstated, and that in the case of any archaeological discoveries the relevant authorities are involved.

The Promoter is accredited to meet the standards of ISO 9001; ISO 14001 and OSHAS 18001.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Programme will strengthen the gas transmission system to ensure the capacity to serve the demand and will improve system performance, safety, reliability and operational efficiency, that way contributing to environmental sustainability of the natural gas network.

The results of the available assessments and authorisations for the various components do not signal issues that form an obstacle to the acceptance of the Programme by the Bank. However, the authorisation process is not finished for some components. Therefore the Bank will introduce undertakings in its finance contract requesting the promoter to provide the missing information and approvals as well as to allocate EIB funds only to those components, for which the approval process has been completed with results satisfactory to the Bank.

With the contractual conditions described above in place the project is acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.