

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: CURTIS BIOMASS POWER GENERATION PLANT
Project Number: 2017-0647
Country: Spain
Project Description: The project concerns the construction of a 50 MWe, electricity only, biomass plant in Galicia, Spain. The plant will use 100% forestry residues in wood chip form sourced from the region

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 comprises the design, construction, operation and maintenance of a 50 MWe biomass power plant located in an existing business park, on a green field plot, in Curtis-Teixeiro, La Coruna, Galicia, Spain. The power plant feedstock comprises forestry residues, which will be sourced in the region. The electricity produced will be fed into the public grid through a local distribution substation located in the industrial estate.

The project comprises a fluidised bed boiler, a steam cycle with steam turbine and air-cooled condensers, and an air pollution abatement system consisting of a baghouse filter and a system for non-catalytic selective reduction of NOx emissions.

By virtue of its technical characteristics, the project falls under Annex II of the EIA Directive (Directive 2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU). The promoter's undertook a simplified environmental assessment, which was submitted to the competent authority to determine whether a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was required. Based on the characteristics of the project, location and the likely impacts and mitigants presented, the competent authority screened out the project from the requirement of a full EIA. The assessment undertaken and the opinion of the competent authority indicated that no significant residual impacts would result from project during construction and operation. Potential impacts during construction are expected to be temporary in nature and will be minimised or avoided by preventative measures e.g. dust suppression, noise attenuation. During operation, the main impacts are expected to result from emissions of the combustion

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.

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processes. These will be mitigated by the use of best available techniques (BAT) and application of emissions thresholds in-line with the BAT conclusions under Directive 2010/75/EU and the Commission implementing decision EU2017/1442 of 31 July 2017. Increased road haulage traffic due to the regular delivery will also be a feature. Up to 70 trucks per day may be necessary for deliveries subject to biomass condition/moisture content.

A mandatory public consultation period, lasting 100 days, was part of the permitting process. Some third party queries were received during that period which were satisfactorily addressed by the concerned stakeholders. The competent authorities subsequently issued the environmental permit, the construction authorisation and the administrative authorisation.

Biomass

The annual biomass consumption in the plant will be around 500,000 tons. The feedstock will be ensured from Galician certified sources under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and/or Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) schemes i.e. as a mixture of either 100% FSC, 100% PEFC, FSC Mixed, FSC Controlled Wood or PEFC Controlled Sources. According to the Galician Decree 52/2014 for regulating forest management in Galicia, starting 2020, all forest owners or forest managers shall be part of a forest certifications scheme (e.g. FSC/PEFC). The promoter holds a PEFC group certification for forests under management, as well as for harvesting, buying/selling and transporting timber. In addition, the promoter holds a FSC certification for forest management and timber production.

The Law 7/2012 of Galician Forest obliges the collection of the harvesting residues from the forest with the objective to reduce the use of fossil fuels and avoid forest fires.

The project will contribute to achieving this objective, by using the forest residues for renewable energy production.

In accordance with the EU Timber Regulation, the promoter has implemented a Due Diligence System to guarantee that wood and products made from wood have a legal provenience.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The direct CO₂ equivalent emissions of the project are negligible because the biomass is from regional sustainable sources.

In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology it is calculated that based on the avoidance of electricity generation from a combination of existing and new power plants in Spain (50% operating margin and 50% build margin), the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO₂ equivalent emissions by 151 kt CO₂e/yr.

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.

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Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the environmental information provided by the Promoter, the project is deemed to be acceptable for Bank financing in environmental terms. The Bank will require the promoter to submit project monitoring reports in line with Bank requirements during project implementation and the first year of operations.

The promoter undertakes to exclusively use biomass in the project that complies with the following sustainability criteria:

- Any biomass supplied to the project must be subject to a transparent, credible chain of custody and comply with biomass sustainability criteria as defined in Directive 2009/28/EC (as applicable);
- Any forest biomass supplied to the project shall comply with EU Timber Regulation (EU/995/2010);
- For any forest biomass used in the project, the promoter is committed to FSC and PEFC certification in the forest areas it is managing directly or indirectly, or as a minimum applying all FSC and PESC principles and criteria for those areas not yet certified;
- Imported biomass from outside the EU shall not be used in the project.
- The project shall not use any biomass coming from irrigated plantations.