



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>NORDERGRUENDE OFFSHORE WIND</i>
Project Number:	<i>2013-0640</i>
Country:	<i>Germany</i>
Project Description:	<i>Construction of a 111MW offshore wind farm in coastal waters of the North Sea in Germany</i>

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The Nordergründe offshore wind farm is a relatively small project, comprising 18 wind turbines of around 6 MW each. It is located in shallow coastal waters of the German bight, in the vicinity of two nature conservation sites. Only two small sites were exceptionally included in the applicable spatial development plan for the installation of offshore wind projects that act as “testing facilities” and provide experience for sector in view of a large-scale roll-out of offshore wind projects further offshore. The project is located at one of these two exceptional sites. .

The project was classified under Annex II of the EU EIA Directive as applicable at the time of appraisal. Due to the project’s initial size and location a full EIA was requested by the competent authority. Following a comprehensive environmental impact assessment, appropriate assessment under Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive, and consultation process, the competent authority granted its permit to the project in two steps in November 2007 and October 2008, respectively.

Two German NGOs launched legal appeals against both partial permits as they considered that these were in breach with nature conservation law. The promoter, in turn, appealed against certain permit conditions. In March 2011, a settlement was concluded between the State of Lower Saxony, the promoter, and the two NGOs. The agreement defines, at the expense of the promoter, additional binding mitigation and monitoring measures and the obligation to finance research into project-specific impacts on birds. The agreement also obliges the promoter to shut down turbine operation during major bird migration events up to ten times per year in order to minimise risks in particular of collision to migrating birds.

During appraisal in 2014, the project was considered acceptable with respect to the Bank’s Environmental and Social Standards, under the following conditions:

- The promoter to provide the Bank with electronic copies of its reports to the competent authorities on i) environmental impact monitoring and ii) implementation of activities under the NGO settlement agreement.



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- The promoter to provide the Bank with a plan, comprising the scope of testing activities that is to be pursued during construction and / or operation of the project, which is agreed with the competent authority. The plan is to be agreed prior to start of construction works.

Both conditions were fulfilled. Corresponding documents were submitted to the Bank.

No significant environment or social issues were reported during implementation.

**Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter and inputs provided by Lenders' Supervisors during Construction, that the Project has been implemented in line with the EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.