

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *ELENIA DISTRIBUTION NETWORK INVESTMENTS II*

Project Number: *2019-0262*

Country: *Finland*

Project Description:

EIA required: maybe

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

The Programme concerns mainly the replacement of medium and low voltage overhead lines with approx. 4,900 km of underground cables to increase resilience to extreme weather events such as storms and heavy snow and meet the regulatory requirements for continuity of supply. The Programme includes also refurbishments and new assets in all voltage levels of the Promoter's network including approx. 90 km of 110 kV network.

Overall, the Programme will enable the Promoter to improve quality of service, to cater for demand growth and connect new users including renewable generation.

Environmental Assessment

Some Programme schemes fall under Annex II of the Directive 2014/52/EU, amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, leaving it to the competent authority to determine whether or not an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. According to national legislation, an EIA is required either for schemes that concern overhead lines of voltage 220 kV or higher, or if it is deemed by the competent authority that the project is likely to have significant environmental impact taking into account the nature and the scope of the project as well as in relation to other projects. Projects are also screened with respect to the need for an appropriate assessment under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

Overall, the environmental impacts of the Programme are expected to be minor and related mainly to noise, vibration, dust, and traffic disruption during the construction, and electromagnetic fields (EMF) and nuisance during operation. Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impacts during construction and operation. Particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibrations and traffic disruption during the construction works. Typical mitigation measures include special construction procedures to minimize damages, construction of facilities to contain oil leaking from transformers, special waste collection procedures and other.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 31.1.2020

Due to their technical characteristics, the Promoter does not expect that the schemes of the Programme will require an EIA. Furthermore, the Promoter does not expect any schemes in relation with Natura 2000 sites and so it is not expected that schemes of the Programme will be screened in for an Appropriate Assessment.

The Promoter's environmental management system is ISO 14001 certified. The environmental and social due diligence has followed the Programme lending approach according to the EIB's procedures and standards, i.e. the due diligence focussed on the Promoter's capacity and capability to implement the Programme in line with EIB environmental and social standards and requirements. The Promoter has never conducted an EIA for its investments, due to the characteristics of the network. The Bank has reviewed the Environmental Management Plan of the Promoter. The environmental capacity of the Promoter is deemed to be good; it has the experience and the capacity to appropriately manage the investment Programme.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Bank reviewed the environmental and social capacity of the Promoter including its organisation, processes and procedures, and deemed them to be good.

Based on the information available, and with appropriate conditions (see below) and monitoring, the Programme is expected to be acceptable in environmental and social terms for Bank financing:

- The Promoter undertakes to store and keep updated all EIA screening decisions concerning the Programme schemes issued by the competent authority for nature and environment.
- The Promoter undertakes not to allocate the Bank's funds to Programme schemes that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) until the EIA and/or the biodiversity assessment have been finalised to the satisfaction of the Bank and approved by the competent authority. An electronic copy of the EIAs must be placed on the website of the Promoter from the moment the EIAs are made available to the public and maintained until completion of reporting.
- The Promoter undertakes to ensure that all Programme schemes will undergo a biodiversity screening in accordance with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives. Should a component have a potential impact on a site of nature conservation, the undertaking is extended to inform the relevant authority and implement the procedures under Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.
- The Promoter undertakes to store and keep updated any documents that may be relevant for the Programme and which support the compliance with the provisions under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives (Form A/B, or equivalent declaration by the competent authority) and shall, upon request, promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.