

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ELLEVIO DISTRIBUTION NETWORK INVESTMENTS
Project Number:	2015-0820
Country:	Sweden
Project Description:	The 3-years programme comprises investment schemes in electricity distribution networks. The investments focus on maintaining and improving security of supply, renewing aging assets, weather-proofing rural networks by replacing overhead lines with underground cables, preparing the network for receiving more wind power, and continuing installing smart meters.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project is a typical power distribution modernisation programme, comprising the development of multiple distribution facilities dispersed all over the concession area, from 220 kV down to low voltage (230 V), including underground cables, overhead lines, substations and transformers, as well as metering and communication equipment.

The programme includes some schemes that fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU). In those cases, the competent national authority is required to determine whether an EIA is needed or not.

The impacts that can be typically expected for such schemes relate to visual impact, vegetation clearance, impact on flying vertebrates, electromagnetic fields, noise nuisance, and disturbances during construction.

Any new power line concession, irrespective of the voltage level, requires an environmental assessment. Medium voltage (MV) and low voltage (LV) schemes are normally expected to have minimal or no environmental impact. HV schemes are more likely to have a negative impact and require a more in-depth analysis.

The programme is to some extent (about 17%) driven by climate change adaptation, i.e. an increased level of storms and floodings that can cause a significant damage to the Promoter's overhead line network and long outages for the consumers. The Promoter adapts to the change by putting the network underground, in particular the rural networks.

If a power line route is planned to be located in a nature conservation area, e.g. Natura 2000, or when it can affect the environment or species preserved by the nature conservation act, the Promoter will apply for a special permission as outlined by the Act with a detailed description of the mitigation measures.

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, 13.12.2016

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter has a sustainability policy with the perspective of encompassing economic, social and environmental responsibility. The policy commits to engage with stakeholders (e.g. via public consultations) to continuously improve the performance, to prevent injuries, ill health, pollution and other incidents.

The Promoter maintains an integrated environmental, health and safety (EHS) management system, which has been certified under ISO 14001 since 2000. For each investment scheme a staff member is assigned as responsible for EHS issues. For each scheme an EHS Plan is a mandatory key document, prepared by the project manager, describing the works, the risks and the responsibilities. The Promoter has introduced a system of unannounced “flying” audits with focus on EHS issues. The target for 2016 is 300 of such audits to supervise the contractors and to minimise the number of incidents.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Bank has 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, the Project is expected to have minor negative residual impacts. Thus it is acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.

Particular undertakings:

The Promoter undertakes not to allocate the Bank’s funds to distribution programme components that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) until the EIA and/or the biodiversity assessment have been finalised, 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 undertakes 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 store and keep updated any documents as may be relevant for the programme supporting the compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitat and Birds Directives (Form A/B, or equivalent declaration by the competent authority), and shall upon request promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.