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Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 20-Sep-2023 | Report No: PIDISDSA36621



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country Central Asia	Project ID P181346	Project Name Additional Financing CASA-1000 Community Support Project Tajikistan	Parent Project ID (if any) P165313
Parent Project Name CASA1000 Community Support Project for Tajikistan	Region EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Estimated Appraisal Date 22-Sep-2023	Estimated Board Date 26-Oct-2023
Practice Area (Lead) Social Sustainability and Inclusion	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Tajikistan	Implementing Agency OJSHC Barqi Tojik, National Social Investment Fund of Tajikistan (NSIFT), State Enterprise Project Management Unit for the Energy Sector (ESPMU)

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The Project Development Objective is to increase the quality of, and access to, energy, social and economic infrastructure services, and to contribute to the strengthening of local governance in communities in the project area.

Components

- Component 1. Rural Electricity Supply Improvements
- Component 2. Community-led Investments in Socio-Economic Infrastructure
- Component 3. Community Mobilization, Capacity Building and Local Governance
- Component 4. Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Communications

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	10.00
Total Financing	10.00
of which IBRD/IDA	10.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS



World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	10.00
IDA Grant	10.00

Environmental Assessment Category

B-Partial Assessment

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Tajikistan is a land-locked country in southeast Central Asia with a population of about 9.5 million and 2021 per capita income (Gross National Income, Atlas method) of about US\$1,100 - slightly above the lower-middle-income threshold. The poverty rate fell from 17.8 percent in 2015 to about 13.9 percent in 2021. Tajikistan's economy relies heavily on primary commodity production and exports, with limited economic diversification. Domestic investment and consumption depend on migrant remittances, which are about a third of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), thus leaving the economy highly vulnerable to external shocks.

Real GDP growth rebounded to about 9.2 percent in 2021, after slowing to 4.5 percent in 2020 due to COVID-19. A sharp increase in precious metal exports, recovery in remittance inflows, and a pickup in private investment and consumption supported this rebound. Tajikistan's external position improved considerably from higher export prices for metals and mineral products and remittance inflows. The current account was in surplus of about 1 percent of GDP in 2021, compared to a surplus of 4.1 percent in 2020. Precious metal exports reached US\$897 million and were about 40 percent of total merchandise exports. Increased remittances and foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows stimulated consumer and capital goods imports. Strong foreign exchange inflows, including from the issuance of new Special Drawing Rights (SDR) by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), supported a stable exchange rate and allowed international reserves to grow to about 8 months of import cover by end-2021. After a fiscal expansion in 2020, the Government began to consolidate spending in 2021. The fiscal deficit narrowed to 1.5 percent of GDP from 3.1 percent in 2020.

The National Bank of Tajikistan is undertaking efforts to reduce inflationary pressure. In response to rising food and fuel price inflation, the National Bank of Tajikistan increased its policy rate four times from 10.75 at end-2020 to 13.25 percent by the end-2021. Nevertheless, average annual inflation rose from 8.6 percent in 2020 to 9 percent in 2021. Amidst lower remittances and a weakening ruble following Russia's invasion of



Ukraine, the authorities allowed the somoni to depreciate by 13 percent against the US dollar in March 2022. Financial sector performance improved in 2021 - primarily due to liquidation being initiated for four insolvent banks (including two state-owned banks). The share of non-performing loans in the total lending portfolio declined by 10 percentage points to 13.7 percent in 2021. To support the most vulnerable groups, the government provided social assistance to 238,000 families and provided extra one-off emergency nutrition-sensitive transfers to over 164,000 families with children.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is expected to lead to a contraction of Tajikistan's economy. Sanctions on the Russian economy have exposed the vulnerability of Tajik economy to external shocks since Russia is the largest employer of Tajik migrant workers and is among the largest trading partners. The main driver of this contraction is a projected fall in remittances, which is expected to lead to lower private consumption and investment. Other factors, including high prices and disruptions to trade, are also expected to contribute to the contraction. This contraction of economic activity and a new tax code introduced at the beginning of the year are expected to lower tax revenues in 2022. Along with an anticipated anti-crisis spending increase, the fiscal deficit is expected to increase to about 3.4 percent in 2022.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

The objective of the AF is aligned with the World Bank Group’s Tajikistan Country Partnership Framework for FY19-23. The proposed AF would contribute to Focus Area 1 (Human Capital and Resilience) of the World Bank’s Country Partnership Framework for the Republic of Tajikistan for the period FY2019–23 (Report No. 135875-TJ) (CPF). It helps to address risks associated with fragility, conflict, and violence that constrain development progress in Tajikistan. It will also support local direct job creation during the construction stage and indirect job creation through improved economic opportunities from a more reliable electricity supply. Like the parent CASA1000 CSP, the proposed AF is aligned with the emphasis of the CPF. The project is closely linked to Pillar 1: Investing in People and Strengthening Social Cohesion through its inclusive, participatory, and community-driven approach, and its focus on improving access to services among the rural poor. Through its emphasis on local governance and local institutional capacity building, the proposed AF also contributes to Pillar 2: Improving the Effectiveness of Public Institutions; and its fundamental underpinning of successful energy sector trade links to Pillar 3: Fostering Investments and Exports by Taking Advantage of Emerging Commercial Opportunities. The project also contributes to the World Bank’s twin goals of eradicating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity through its focus on poverty reduction, particularly among youth and women, in rural areas of Tajikistan. Through its CDD design, and youth-focused and tailored activities in the Isfara border areas, the proposed AF will advance the capacity of the GoT for participatory local development in high-risk regions.

Alignment with the World Bank Group’s Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025. The proposed AF is also strongly aligned with the World Bank Group’s Climate Change Action Plan, which includes improvement in energy efficiency, improvement in the resilience of energy systems against climate change and extreme events, investing in projects to increase energy access, technology improvement, and decarbonization techniques, among other priority actions.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO



The Project Development Objective is to increase the quality of, and access to, energy, social and economic infrastructure services, and to contribute to the strengthening of local governance in communities in the project area.

Current PDO

The PDO of the original project will remain unchanged with the AF.

Key Results

The indicators and the targets in the results framework are still valid and will remain the same as in the parent project.

D. Project Description

The proposed AF would contribute towards closing the financing gap under the CASA1000 CSP. Given the shortage of funds and the need for the project extension by 20 months to complete the activities (from December 29, 2023 to August 29, 2025). There are no changes in the scope of the existing activities envisaged under the parent project.

Component 1: Rural Electricity Supply Improvements (estimated US\$5.00 million IDA). Under Subcomponent 1A: Village Electricity Supply Improvements in the Corridor of Impact, the AF will provide funds to cover the financing gap in the implementation of existing subprojects, primarily to fund the scope of Phase 2 of the contract, which includes medium voltage network rehabilitation, a few minor rehabilitation works at the high voltage substations to improve the quality of the supply to the villages, and minor work at the low voltage distribution networks to improve the safety of the distribution transformers. This work will further support improvement of the quality of the electricity supply and reduction of losses in 50 communities in Vorukh and Chorkuh jamoats of Isfara district and 65 villages that are in the CoI in the northern, central, and southern segments of the CASA1000 transmission line in Tajikistan. Part of AF will provide funding under Subcomponent 1B to Isfara-1 Substation and Village Electricity Supply Improvements in Border Areas. The funding will cover water supply to the Isfara 1 substation, and improve protection system of the substation for Isfara-I substation.

Component 2: Community-led Investments in Socio-Economic Infrastructure (US\$3.80 million IDA). The AF will be used for Subcomponents 2A and 2B (Subgrants to Communities in the Corridor of Impact and in Border Areas) to provide funds to cover the financing gap in the implementation of the existing subprojects, the missed second round of subgrants to the villages to support priority small-scale socioeconomic infrastructure investments, and funds for youth-led investments in the CoI and border area villages. Communities will follow the participatory and inclusive decision-making processes set out in the Project Operations Manual (POM). Eligible subprojects, as agreed under the parent project, may include, but are not limited to, medical points, kindergartens, street lighting, school improvements, village-level water supply and sanitation, youth centers, small-scale rehabilitation of on-farm irrigation systems and tertiary roads, and economic infrastructure, such as small-scale processing facilities for horticultural products, or farm machinery workshops. The types of work may involve new construction, improvement, upgrading, rehabilitation, demolition, repair, renovation, retrofitting, or maintenance.

Component 3: Community Mobilization, Capacity Building, and Local Governance (US\$0.43 million IDA). The AF will cover the costs of social mobilization activities that need to be completed post-subproject construction, and additional training and capacity building for communities with a focus on youth and women, as needed. This will



include activities on participatory management, oversight and monitoring, and participatory operations and maintenance of the supported social infrastructure.

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Communications (US\$0.77 million IDA). The AF will finance the incremental costs of NSIFT for the additional period for overall project coordination, management, and implementation supervision, and the oversight of the management information system, procurement, and financial management (FM), including project audits, beneficiary feedback, communications, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities to track, document, and communicate the progress and results of the AF project. The indicators and the targets in the results framework are still valid and will remain the same as in the parent project.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

Implementation arrangements remain like in the parent project unchanged. The MoF provides the proceeds of the IDA grant to the project implementing agency (ESPMU) through a subsidiary agreement. BT, through the ESPMU, will execute Component 1 of the project. Implementation of all the remaining components of the project will be delegated by the MoF to NSIFT.

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

There is no change in project location sites under proposed AF, and project will continue to be implemented in the Jamoats with villages that lie within the CASA1000 corridor of impact (CoI), defined as 1.5 kilometers from either side of the CASA1000 Transmission Line (TL). The CASA-1000 TL extends from Sugdh province in the north bordering the Kyrgyz Republic to Khatlon province in the south. There are 65 villages in the CoI, traversing 24 Jamoats and 8 districts. In addition, the project supports target areas in the Isfara district, in Sugdh province and the enclaves and border villages near the CASA1000 TL in the Kyrgyz Republic. It is estimated that 130,000 people live within the CoI, and 73,000 in target areas in Isfara. At the institutional level, Barqi Tojik, the Energy Sector PMU, NSIFT, and 24 Jamoats and community-based organizations in the CoI, as well as the townships in Isfara, are benefiting from the project through capacity building aligned with their institutional responsibilities.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Rahat Jabeen, Environmental Specialist
Harjot Kaur, Social Specialist



SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	

KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The proposed additional financing (AF) will be used for filling the financing gap with the scope of parent project; and as such AF is not proposing any new project activity. The AF will be used largely to complete the ongoing civil works under Component 1 & 2.

Under “Component 1: the activities include: medium voltage network rehabilitation; a few minor rehabilitations works at high voltage substation; improvement works for electricity supply and reduction of transmission losses in 50 communities in Vorukh and Chorkuh jamoats of Isfara-1 district covering 65 villages along COI; completion of Isfara-1 Substation and village electricity supply improvement in the Border Area, electrification in Mohpari town; and to complete the water supply system to the Isfara-1 Substation.

Under Subcomponent 1, the AF will provide funds to cover the financing gap in the implementation of existing subprojects, primarily to fund the scope of Phase 2 of the contract, which includes medium voltage network rehabilitation, a few minor rehabilitation work at the high voltage substations to improve the quality of the supply to



the villages, and minor work at the low voltage distribution networks to improve the safety of the distribution transformers.

Under component 2 the AF will be used for subgrants to provide funds to cover the financing gap in the implementation of the existing subprojects. supporting priority small-scale socioeconomic infrastructure investments such as: medical points, kindergartens, street lighting, school improvements, village-level water supply and sanitation, small-scale rehabilitation of on-farm irrigation systems and tertiary roads, and economic infrastructure, such as small-scale processing facilities for horticultural products, or farm machinery workshops. The types of work involve new construction, improvement, upgrading, rehabilitation, demolition, repair, renovation, retrofitting, or maintenance. Communities will follow the participatory and inclusive decision-making processes set out in the POM).

As all the project activities are same as for parent project, the potential adverse environmental impacts of the project are assessed the same/similar as for parent project. These are associated with issues such as noise, dust, air and water pollution, solid waste management, degradation of vegetation, traffic disruption (depending upon specific location), and worker safety (e.g. welding operations). These possible impacts are typical for small scale construction/rehabilitation works and for village-level energy supply or energy efficiency activities.

As regards the social impacts, OP 4.12 has been triggered. In compliance with Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), the social screening and monitoring identified no resettlement impacts within the subprojects being implemented under Component 1. The subprojects under Component 2 have resettlement impacts including about 50 subprojects with new construction will be implemented within the footprint of existing social facilities, while others will require land acquisition. There are no impacts under component 3 and 4. While the project is expecting that the Government of Tajikistan will make land available, due diligence is required to ensure that there are no resultant physical or economic displacements and the PIU is ensuring it under the parent project. Risks related to this need to be avoided or reduced or, if involuntary acquisition is inevitable, then it will have to be addressed as per the project RPF and RAPs may be prepared if required. The completed social screening forms for the subprojects requiring land acquisition are part of the ESIA/ESMPs.

In addition, the IAs should incorporate the labor requirements and worker health and safety measures into the bidding documents and agreements to be signed with contractors and monitor their implementation. Though no labor influx issues have been identified, the project is employing female workers and therefore should ensure safe working conditions for them, including the provision of separate toilet and rest facilities. The PIU staff has been trained and workers will continue to be trained on the grievance redress mechanism (GRM). Specific GRM for any complaints related to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment has already been established, PIU staff has received training in 2022, and the GRM will continue to be available during the AF period.

Since the parent project has implemented the first round of sub projects, the probability of other possible social impacts like unmet expectations of benefit-sharing by local communities residing outside of the jamoats through which the CoI passes; depriving individuals of land and other assets in the guise of voluntary donations; health hazards; and labor issues (including relying on child labor for agricultural activities) is low as the next round sub projects which will be similar in nature as the first round, and will be implemented in the same communities, and the necessary mitigation measures for avoiding above mentioned social risks are already in place.

Both the ESPMU and NSIFT have environmental specialists on board who oversee social safeguards. These agencies are strongly recommended to improve the E&S monitoring and reporting on the subprojects under implementation. A clear system of regular monitoring and gathering of relevant information from the project sites is already in place and



the PIU has been trained on collecting, storing and analyzing data information, and has operational MIS which covers also safeguard documentation and information. Considering the increase in the number of subprojects and necessity to strengthen the E&S implementation monitoring capacity, the IAs need to hire separate social specialists to strengthen E&S monitoring of the project activities.

For the proposed subprojects; the environmental risks are assessed to be site-specific, moderate, and short-lived, with low to moderate probability and severity of harm. Further the identified subprojects are not located in protected areas, critical habitats or culturally or socially sensitive areas; as confirmed during subprojects screening and the ESIA formulation processes. . These potential impacts and risks can be addressed with sound engineering and construction and preparing and implementing adequate mitigation measures for potential social risks.

Given the context, the safeguard policies triggered (OP/BP 4.01 and OP/BP 7.50) for the parent project and the assigned environmental category “B” will remain the same.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area: The expected long-term and indirect impact of the project is expected to be mostly positive for target communities and includes improved livelihoods through access to sustained electricity; and to social and productive infrastructure being financed under the project.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts. In the absence of the proposed project, there is an increased probability for negative economic and social consequences in CASA1000 transmission line corridor of impact and a worsening of the living conditions of the local population. In addition, the communities have been already mobilized under the parent project and expect the envisaged support. Any resettlement related risks in the sub projects, will be avoided or reduced or, if involuntary acquisition is inevitable, then it will have to be addressed as per the project RPF.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

For the parent project the client has prepared an “Environmental and Social Assessment Framework” (ESMF) since the precise location, type and design of subprojects were not known due to CDD nature of CSP. In addition, the route of the CASA1000 had to be finalized first because the list of communities for implementation of CSP could not be confirmed until then. All communities had to be confirmed in order for the projects to start social mobilization and provide subgrants. The ESMF guides and provides the following: (i) the national and WB safeguards rules and procedures; (ii) environmental and social impacts associated with the proposed investments and generic mitigation measures; (iii) guidelines on conducting subproject environmental screenings, as well as preparing the ESIA, including defining mitigation measures and monitoring activities for different types of activities; (iv) roles and responsibilities in the EA process, and supervision and reporting mechanism; (v) ESMP and Checklists to be applied within the EA process; and (vi) capacity building activities to ensure an efficient ESMF implementation.

The ESMF implementation is the joint responsibility of Barqi Tajik - the Energy Sector Project Management Unit (ESPMU), National Social Investment Fund of Tajikistan (NSIFT), local government entities (“Jamoat Project Commissions”) and subproject implementors and beneficiaries.

During the parent project implementation, the client has prepared an ESIA in accordance with the ESMF guidance and



WB SG requirements prior to commencing the execution of “Isfra Electric Sub-station” under Sub-component 1B. The civil works include construction and reinforcement of 110/10 kV, Barqi Tojik distribution networks, including lines and substations, and supply networks requirements. The key potential impacts identified are mostly during construction phase and include: i) dust, noise, and emission of pollutants during construction activities; (ii) solid and hazardous wastes; (iii) degradation of soil and grass vegetation; (iv) oil spills and leaks from the transformers and relevant facilities which may contaminate soil and water resources; (v) risks of exposure to unconfirmed health effects from electric and magnetic fields; and (vi) occupational health and safety risks; etc. These measures were however assessed as short term and site specific and can be mitigated by applying the mitigation measures suggested in the ESMP proposed in ESIA. The ESIA further suggested capacity building/trainings; and compliance monitoring and reporting mechanism. A clear system of regular monitoring and gathering of relevant information from the project sites is already in place and the PIU has been trained on collecting, storing and analyzing data information, and has operational MIS which covers also safeguard documentation and information. Considering the increase in the number of subprojects and necessity to strengthen the E&S implementation monitoring capacity, the IAs need to hire separate social specialists to strengthen E&S monitoring of the project activities.

The client has also established an adequate institutional set-up for overseeing the E&S requirements for the parent project. Both the implementing entities (ESPMU and NSIFT) have separate and dedicated Environment Specialist; who are responsible for implementing SG requirements in the field as per ESIA/ESMF; and site specific ESMPs. In December 2022 the Bank specialists provided E&S training for ESPMU and NSIFT SG teams. The improved knowledge and skills of E&S staff significantly contributed furthering their work in the field. These staff provided series of trainings and environmental sessions for field technical supervising engineers, design engineers, ES and HS specialists of PMUs and contractors.

The ESMF/ESMP provisions form the part of design documents for the subprojects, and, are being included in construction contracts for selected subprojects, both into specifications and bills of quantities. Contractors are required to include the cost of ESMP requirements in their financial bids and be required to comply with them while implementing project activities.

With regards to E&S implementation progress, the client is satisfactorily conducting E&S screening of sub-projects as per ESMF guidance; and preparing the site-specific SG instruments including 75 ESMPs. During the WB ISM mission (April-2023) noted that E&S monitoring system by the client is effective in general and includes several levels of regular on site and documentary control: first at the contractor’s level through foremen; and then by ESPMU technical supervising engineers who supervise the civil works and report on E&S aspects to ESPMU E&S department (responsible for overall E&S compliance). The minor issues/shortcomings are properly registered during the monitoring; and are reported for timely addressing by the contractor. Further the client has made contractors responsible to have agreements on waste disposal, fire control, and medical aid with the relevant organizations. Apart from regular monitoring, the client has also engaged independent consultants: the “Environmental, Social, health, and safety (ESHS) department” of TGEM and “AO BARS” for sub-components 1 and 2 respectively. These consultants regularly conduct E&S audits against the benchmarks set in the approved CESMP through spot checking and assessing the effectiveness of SG measures.

These institutional arrangements and monitoring mechanism will continue for AF as well. However, the client will be pursued for strengthening certain areas of improvements such as timely disclosure of SG instruments; and properly documenting lessons learned while implementing E&S measures in the field.



5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

The draft ESMF was consulted with all interested parties and representatives from local populations. For this purpose the document was disclosed on Barqi Tajik website on November 21, 2018 ([http://www.barqitajik.tj/upload/iblock/f34/RFP CASA 1000 CSP Tajikistan RUS.pdf](http://www.barqitajik.tj/upload/iblock/f34/RFP_CASA_1000_CSP_Tajikistan_RUS.pdf)) and on December 4-8, 2018, ESPMU/NSIFT conducted local public consultations on the draft ESMF and invited all interested stakeholder organizations including local representatives of tother Government bodies, such as local branches CEP, health and labor departments, local khukumats, jamoats, mahalla leaders and local NGOs from target sites in four locations (Kushoniyon, Jaihun, Isfara and Jabbor Rasulov districts). During the consultations, ESPMU/NSIFT presented a summary of the draft ESMF. In particular, the audience was informed about the screening of the projects, the Environmental Assessment for Category B sub-projects, potential impacts which may be generated as well as measures to be taken to prevent/mitigate potential impacts. Overall, the draft document was largely accepted by the participants and no major comments or suggestions to improve it were received. Based on the feedback obtained from participants, the ESMF was revised/updated and submitted on December 12, 2018 to the WB for disclosure on its website.

Since there is no change in the project activities during AF, the stakeholders will also largely remain the same. During the AF as well, the project will continue to engage proactively with different stakeholders and communities to get their feedback and suggestions. This is supported by activities under Component 3: Community Mobilization, Capacity Building, and Local Governance which involves all stakeholders through social mobilization activities, participatory management, oversight and monitoring, and participatory operations and maintenance of the supported social infrastructure.

B. Disclosure Requirements (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure	For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors
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"In country" Disclosure

Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure
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"In country" Disclosure

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting) (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

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APPROVAL

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