



Luxembourg, 18/12/2024

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	GEMEINSCHAFTSKRAFTWERK INN
Project Number:	20150250
Country:	AUSTRIA
Project Description:	Construction and operation of a new 89 MW hydroelectric plant on the river Inn in the Upper Inn region on the Swiss-Austrian border/

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

The Project falls under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. The competent authorities, in line with Austrian and Swiss environmental law (UVP-G 2000), requested a full environmental impact assessment (EIA) including public consultation. The competent authorities granted the relevant 1st instance permits both in Austria and Switzerland in 2010. The permits in both countries were appealed by citizen initiatives, raising concerns related to the assessment of the Project alternatives and potential negative impacts for the people living in the area, specifically in relation to fish ecology. The appeal was dismissed by the national authorities: in Austria (*Umweltsenat*) and in Switzerland (Federal Administration Court), on the grounds that the Project was the best alternative from economic, technical and environmental perspective. Final environmental permits were issued in 2011 (Switzerland) and 2012 (Austria).

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

Specific measures were defined prior to start of construction to mitigate identified impacts. A specialised consulting firm was commissioned with the supervision of the implementation of these measures. Most important measures are summarised in the following.

Increased noise, dust, light and emissions during construction phase were expected to impact local community, terrestrial ecology and tourism activity in the Project areas. Mitigation measures implemented, as typical for large construction sites, consisted of appropriate work methods and work scheduling and of specific measures such as noise protection barriers, tyres washing system for construction machinery, concentration of transportation to low season months, avoiding empty drives, and regular cleaning and damping of streets. Noise and emission levels were regularly monitored.

All areas used temporarily during the construction, e.g. access roads, site offices, storage and parking areas, were replanted with plants, grass and woodland. The Promoter implemented various measures to improve the Inn as a natural habitat, for example the creation of natural habitats in Maria Stein and the widening of the Inn's river bed at various points, where gravel banks and islands were created to act as stream breakers. Riverside woodland was replanted.

Approximately 1 million m³ of material were excavated for the construction of headrace tunnel, powerhouse and intake. Transportation of this material was minimized by applying a sophisticated recycling and storage concept. Excavated material suitable as aggregate for concrete was used directly at site in the batching plant in Maria Stein. Material not suitable for re-purposing was disposed in an authorised nearby mucking area.



Luxembourg, 18/12/2024

A fish pass, designed in cooperation with biodiversity experts, was integrated on the right side of the intake. As previously not in place, a fish pass was also implemented at the Kaunertal power plant downstream of the Project. Fish migration is being monitored.

Seasonal minimum environmental flow rates are released at the intake in Ovella, considering environmental and dynamic hydrological parameters. Released flows are continuously monitored.

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social aspects to be monitored during operations:

The independent environmental consultant's final report confirmed satisfactory implementation of the proposed environmental measures.

As per finance contract, the Promoter will submit annual reports on fish monitoring, until 2031.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the Promoter, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.