Energy Infrastructure Package

Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructures

Jonathan PARKER
Cohesion Policy & Environmental Impact Assessment
European Commission, DG Environment
e-mail: jonathan.parker@ec.europa.eu
webpages: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/home.htm &
http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/index_en.htm

18 January 2013
0. Placement of the TEN-E Guidelines

1. Environmental impact of energy infrastructures

   - Priority corridors and identification of PCIs
   - Accelerating permit granting and transparency

3. Streamlining the environmental assessments

4. Timetable and state of play
The legislative proposals of the TEN-package

Three sectoral infrastructure policy proposals

- **Connecting Europe Facility**:
  - Budget EUR
    - Energy – 9.12bn
    - Transport – 30bn
    - ICT – 9.1bn

Political agreement reached

Regulation on the Guidelines on energy infrastructure

CEF

Broadband and digital infrastructure guidelines

TEN-Transport guidelines
1. Environmental impact of energy infrastructures

**Infrastructure categories**

**Electricity:**
- Transmission: overhead lines, underground or subsea cables
- Storage: installation connected to transmission network
- Related equipment
- **Smart grids:** transmission / distribution networks aiming at efficiently integrating behaviour and actions of all users

**Gas:**
- High pressure transmission
- Underground storage
- LNG / CNG
- Related equipment

**Oil:**
- Pipelines, pumping stations, related equipment

**CO₂**
- Transport pipelines, buffers and related equipment
1. Environmental impact of energy infrastructures

- **Fragmentation** High-power transmission does not lead to actual barriers. For oil and gas pipelines the effect depends on whether we are looking at above or below ground pipes.
- **Noise** from power lines can be a problem in a manner similar as with wind turbines, albeit the noise levels are lower. The noise is weather dependent (higher noise in wet weather).
- **Visual impact** is an issue of landscape conservation and as it is perceived that property with power lines in the vicinity is worth less.
- **Electromagnetic radiation** is a perceived issue closely linked to the visual issue mentioned above. The scientific basis is still not conclusive.
- **Operational risk** is an issue for oil and gas pipes as leakage will clearly have local impacts.
- **Collision damage** (Migrating) birds and high power electricity transmission
Possible conflicts with protected areas (Habitats, Birds Directives) Examples: planned high-voltage transmission links as part of the TEN-E Network for electrical power
Proposed consolidated regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure

Implementation of 12 priority corridors/areas, necessary to meet EU’s energy and climate policy goals by 2020 and beyond by providing policy and regulatory certainty through a stable and appropriate regulatory framework to promote the necessary investments:

1. Priority corridors and identification of projects of common interest
2. Accelerated permit granting and transparency
2.1. Priority corridors and identification of PCIs

Priority corridors: electricity

- Northern Seas Offshore grid
- North-South interconnections Western EU
- BEMIP
- North-South interconnections CEE
2.1. Priority corridors and identification of PCIs

Priority corridors: gas, oil, CO2 transport

- Southern gas corridor
- BEMIP
- North-South interconnections Western EU
- North-South interconnections CEE & oil

+ carbon dioxide transport infrastructure
Permit granting – Regime of common interest

**Competent Authority** to manage permit granting process (one stop shop)

**3 years & 3 months** (+ possible 9 months extension) **time limit** for the permit granting decision

Increased **transparency** and enhanced **public participation**

**Priority status** for PCIs

- Most preferential treatment in Member States
- Streamlining of EIA procedures
3. Streamlining the environmental assessments

- Proposed TEN-E Art. 8.4 (Priority Status PCIs): (Member States...) take measures to **streamline the environmental assessment procedures** (...) to ensure the **coherent application of environmental assessment procedures** required under EU legislation for projects of common interest.

- Article 8.4 requires the Commission to issue **guidance** within 3 months of the entry into force of the Energy Infrastructure Guidelines. This guidance will have to identify adequate measures **to streamline environmental assessment procedures and to ensure their coherent application to projects of common interest.**
3. Streamlining the environmental assessments

The guidance on streamlining environmental assessment procedures for energy infrastructures shall cover all environmental Directives (or international agreements) which contain assessment procedures, plus the relevant Case Law from the European Court of Justice:

1. The EIA and SEA Directives
2. UN Conventions - ESPOOO Convention, the SEA Protocol and the Aarhus Convention
3. The Habitats and Birds Directives
5. The Seveso II Directive
6. The Industrial Emissions Directives
3. Timetable and state of play

**Timetable**

- **→ 01/2012** → Open call for tender on 'streamlining' guidance study
- **→ 06/2012** → Signature of the contract with Milieu Ltd.
- **→ 11/2012** → Interim report (5 months after the signature of the contract)
- **→ 12/2012** → Accepted Commission proposal
- **→ 01/2013**  → Academic conference in Cambridge
  → Peer group meeting
- **→ 04/2013** → Parliament's vote on the proposal
  → Application of the TEN-E Guidelines (the first day of the month after the date of entry into force of the Regulation)
  → Final report (9 months after the signature of the contract)
- **→ 07/2013** → Commission's Guidance on streamlining energy infrastructure measures
- **→ 04/2014** → Member States to take practical, non-legislative measures (9 months from the issuance of the guidance)
- **→ 07/2015** → Member States to make the necessary legislative changes (24 months from the issuance of the guidance)
Thank you for your attention