# Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

## 150 MW / 300 MWh Celest BESS Project in Uzbekistan

**REV-3**

**November 2025**

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| Acronym | Definition |
|---|---|
| AC | Alternating current |
| BESS | Battery Energy Storage System |
| BMP | Biodiversity Management Plan |
| BSSA | Battery Storage Service Agreement |
| CLO | Community Liaison Officer |
| COD | Commercial Operation Date |
| DC | Direct Current |
| EBRD | European Bank for Reconstruction and Development |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EMS | Energy Management System |
| EPC | Engineering, Procurement and Construction |
| ESIA | Environmental and Social Impact Assessment |
| ESMP | Environmental and Social Management Plan |
| ESR | Environmental and Social Requirement |
| E&S | Environmental and Social |
| FGD | Focus Group Discussion |
| GBVH | Gender Based Violence and Harassment |
| IFI | International Financing Institutions |
| ILO | International Labor Organization |
| KPI | Key Performance Indicator |
| LRP | Livelihood Restoration Plan |
| MW | Megawatt |
| MWh | Megawatt per hour |
| NEGU | National Electric Grid of Uzbekistan |
| NGO | Non-governmental Organization |
| NTS | Non-Technical Summary |
| OEM | Original Equipment Manufacturer |
| OHTL | Overhead Transmission Lines |
| OVOS | Otsenka Vliyaniya na Okruzhayushchuyu Sredu |
| PCS | Power Conversion System |
| PS | Performance Standards |
| SEP | Stakeholder Engagement Plan |
| SIZ | Small Industrial Zone |

| | |
|---|---|
| **SPV** | Special Purpose Vehicle |
| **TBT** | Toolbox Talk |
| **WBG** | World Bank Group |

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

In recent years, Uzbekistan has faced a severe energy crisis and is going through a power system collapse – particularly during winter. The problem has affected every part of society, from businesses and industry to residents' daily lives. In December 2022, extremely low temperatures coupled with outdated infrastructure created pressure drops in the gas pipelines, which in turn created a big national crisis given that 80% of Uzbekistan's electricity comes from thermal power facilities that run on gas. The crisis has resulted in severe power outages with nation-wide blackouts[1].

Acknowledging the severity of the situation, the Government of Uzbekistan has taken ambitious measures to alleviate the energy crisis. One of the first priorities was to reduce reliance and dependency on natural gas for electricity generation and promote renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

The Government issued a Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 11.09.2023 No. PF-158 ("Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy), which sets a target of 25 GW of renewable energy capacity and 40% of electricity production from renewables by 2030[2].

These national efforts to expand renewable energy make the role of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) increasingly important. The primary purposes of the BESS are energy shifting, which involves storing electricity when demand is low and releasing it during peak periods, and grid support, which provides services such as voltage and frequency regulation to maintain the stability and reliability of the power grid. Both functions play a critical role in facilitating the integration of renewable energy into Uzbekistan's power grid by shifting the energy load to peak demand periods—particularly important as the country continues to expand its renewable energy capacity.

In accordance with the above, AMEA Power executed an Investment Agreement with the Republic of Uzbekistan, a Battery Storage Service Agreement (BSSA) with JSC Uzenergosotich, and a Transmission Connection Agreement with JSC National Electric Grid of Uzbekistan (NEGU) to a develop a 300 Mega Watt Hour (MWh) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project to be located in Tashkent City within Uzbekistan (hereafter referred to as the '**Project**'). AMEA Power established a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) known as Celest that is wholly owned by AMEA Power and that will be responsible for development of this project (hereafter referred to as the '**Developer**' or **'Celest'**).

The Project is expected to perform two full cycles per day (each of 2 hours), meaning it will charge and discharge twice daily to store and release electricity as needed, implying a daily energy throughput of 600 MWh. The Project will help stabilize the grid by balancing supply and demand, reducing blackouts, and enabling smoother integration of variable renewable sources.

## 1.2 Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

This document constitutes a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to be implemented by the Developer throughout the construction and operation phase for the Project. The SEP outlines a systematic method

[1] Executive summary – Uzbekistan 2022 – Analysis - IEA

[2] Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 11.09.2023 No. PF-158

to stakeholder engagement that will assist the Developer in developing and maintaining a positive relationship with their stakeholders, particularly the locally affected communities, over time. The SEP is a dynamic document which will be modified through Project construction, operation and implementation.

The Project welcomes suggestions for improvement of this SEP. Suggestions can be submitted via the contact information for the Developer at the end of this document (Contact DetailsContact DetailsContact Details).

In particular, this SEP includes the following:

- Section 1 – provide a background and introduction on the Project and SEP;
- Section 2 – Project Description: provides a summary of the Project location, main Project components, Project schedule and job opportunities for the construction and operation phase;
- Section 3 – Regulatory Context: highlights the main requirements that are relevant for stakeholder engagement to the Project to include Uzbekistan regulations and international best practice requirements;
- Section 4 – Identification of Stakeholders: identifies all relevant stakeholders for the construction and operation phase of the Project at all geographic levels to include national, regional and local levels as well as communities within the area of influence of the Project;
- Section 5 – Summary of Past Stakeholder Engagement Activities: provides a summary of past stakeholder engagement activities undertaken for the Project during the planning and design phase of the Project;
- Section 6 – Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Plan: identifies an engagement strategy for each stakeholder group to include objective for engagement, communication methods and tools, timeframe, and responsibilities;
- Section 7 – Stakeholder Grievance Mechanism: identifies a mechanism for managing and handling any concerns or complaints related to the Project from stakeholders during the construction and operation phase;
- Section 8 – Contact Details: this section provides contact details of the Developer for communication with all relevant stakeholders of the Project;
- Section 9 – Monitoring and Reporting: identifies the key monitoring and reporting requirements that are applicable for the implementation of the plan; and
- Chapter 10 – Roles and Responsibilities: identifies the roles and responsibilities for the Developer and other involved entities in implementation of the plan.

An ESIA has been prepared which contains detailed information on the Project and the environmental and social considerations involved (see “Section 6” for information on ESIA Report disclosure). The report includes a description of the Project’s purpose, an assessment of potential environmental and social impacts, and any necessary mitigation measures for significant adverse effects. It also containts an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), outlining monitoring and mitigation measures, responsibilities, and legal requirements for the Project's duration, all of which the Developer is committed to implementing. Additionally, a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) has also been developed, providing a summary in non-technical language of the findings presented in the ESIA Report.

# 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section provides a detailed description of the Project in relation to its location, the key Project components, and an overview of the proposed activities that are to take place during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phase.

## 2.1 Administrative Setup and Project Location

It is important to understand the administrative setup of Uzbekistan as several terminologies will be referenced throughout the SEP. Administratively, Uzbekistan is divided into 12 Regions (also known as *viloyatlar*), 1 sovereign republic (known as the Sovereign Republic of Karakalpakstan), and 1 independent city (Tashkent City which is the capital of Uzbekistan).

The Project site is located in Tashkent City, adjacent to the Eastern border of Tashkent Region. Tashkent City is the capital of Uzbekistan and serves as a separate administrative unit from the surrounding Tashkent Region. Table 1 below presents the regional divisions of Uzbekistan.

**Table 1: Regional Divisions of Uzbekistan**

| Division | Legend | Division | Legend | Division | Legend |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andijan Region | 2 | Qashqadaryo Region | 8 | Xorazm Region | 13 |
| Bukhara Region | 3 | Samarqand Region | 9 | Namangan Region | 6 |
| Fergana Region | 4 | Sirdaryo Region | 10 | Navoiy Region | 7 |
| Jizzakh Region | 5 | Surxondaryo Region | 11 | Tashkent Region | 12 |
| Karakalpakstan | 14 | **Tashkent City** | **1** | | |

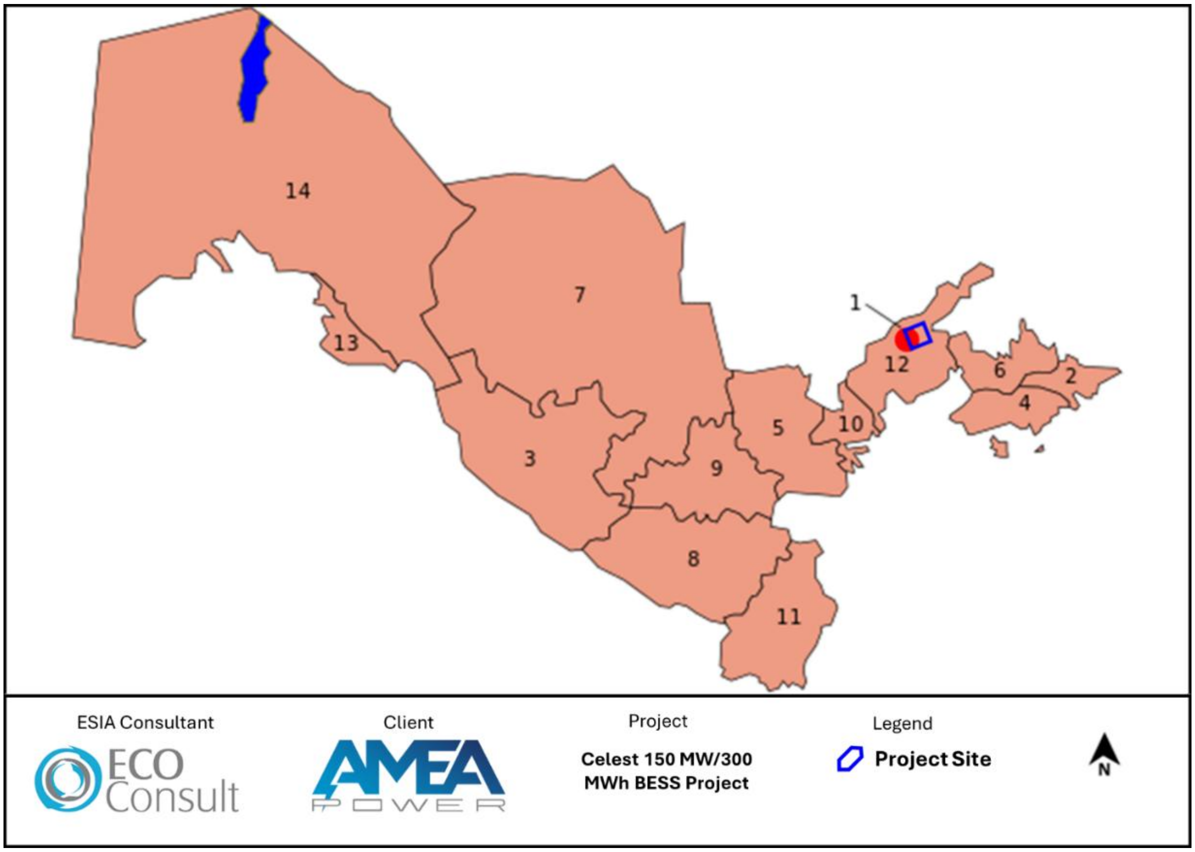


**Figure 1: Region Division of Uzbekistan**

Tashkent City is divided into multiple districts (*Rayons*), each governed by its own *District Khokimiyat (represented by a District Hokim or Governor)*, which is responsible for local administration, the implementation of state programs, and delivery of public services such as water supply, waste management, infrastructure development, and environmental management.

Ministries at the national level, such as the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change, are all located within Tashkent City.

As stated above, the Project site is located within Tashkent City, specifically within the jurisdiction of Mirzo Ulug'bek District. Table 2 below presents the district divisions of Tashkent City and Figure 2 illustrates the location of the Project site within Tashkent City.

**Table 2: District Divisions of Tashkent City**

| Division | Legend | Division | Legend |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sirg'ali | 1 | Shayxontoxur | 7 |
| Bektemir | 2 | Chilonzor | 8 |
| **Mirzo Ulug'bek** | **3** | Uchtepa | 9 |
| Yashnobod | 4 | Yunusobod | 10 |
| Mirobod | 5 | Yakkasaroy | 11 |
| Olmazor | 6 | Yangihayot | 12 |

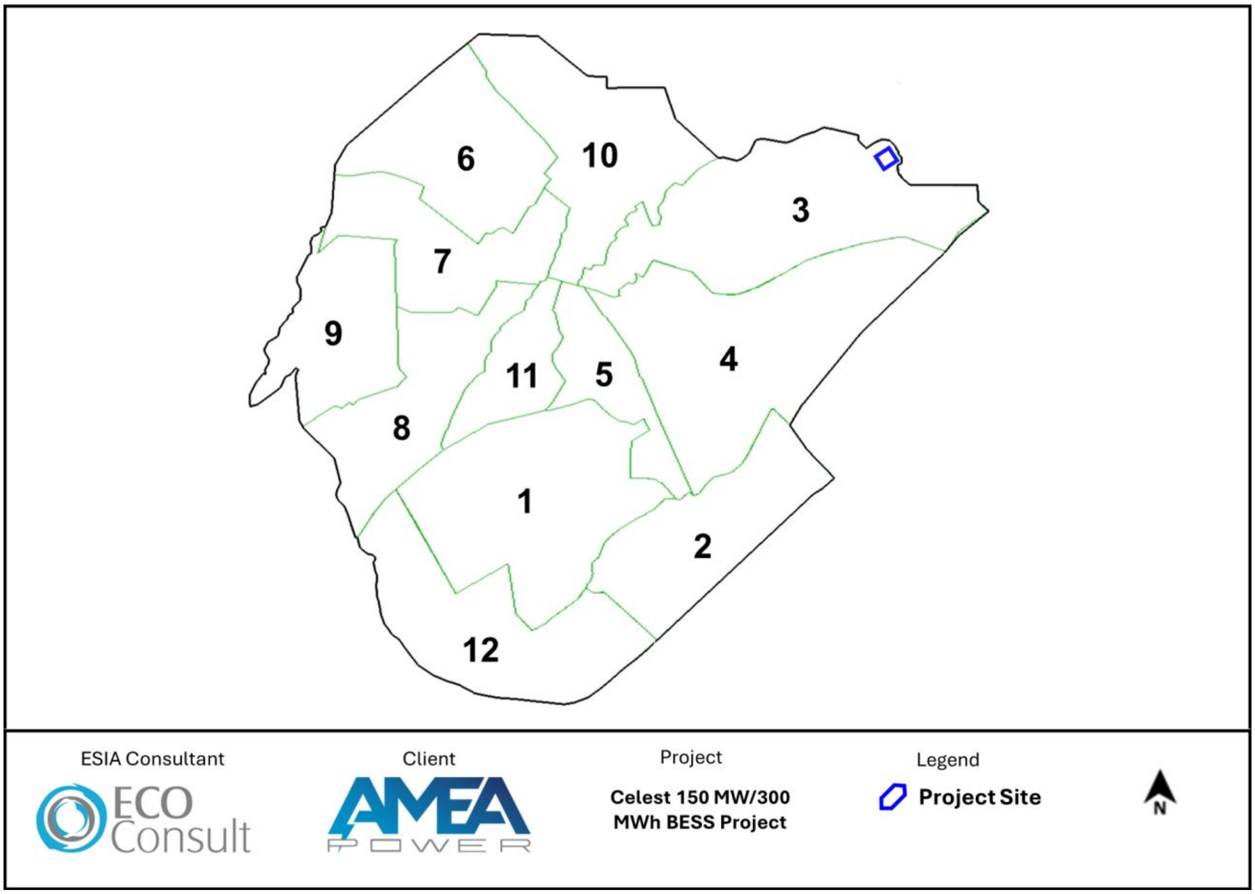


Figure 2: District Divisions in Tashkent City

### 2.2 Local Communities

Mahallas represent the lowest level of administrative and social organization in Uzbekistan and play a vital role in local governance, community cohesion, and service delivery. Each Mahalla has a Mahalla Committee, led by a Mahalla Chairman (*Rais*), who serves as a liaison between residents and government institutions, supporting local initiatives, addressing community issues, and facilitating access to public services.

Administratively, the BESS site is located within Beshkapa Mahalla, an industrial neighborhood, while the transmission route falls within Paskiyuz Mahalla. Both mahallas are under the jurisdiction of Mirzo Ulug'bek District in Tashkent City as discussed earlier.

Throughout the SEP report, the term 'local communities' will refer specifically to the following settlements and inhabited areas within the listed Mahallas. The rationale for this is provided below and has also been agreed in consultation with Mirzo Ulug'bek District Khokim.

- Beshkapa Mahalla (where the BESS is located)
- Paskiyuz Mahalla (where the transmission line runs)
- Yuzrobot Mahalla
- Geofizika Mahalla

Figure 3 presents the four (4) Mahallas and their boundaries in relation to the Project site.

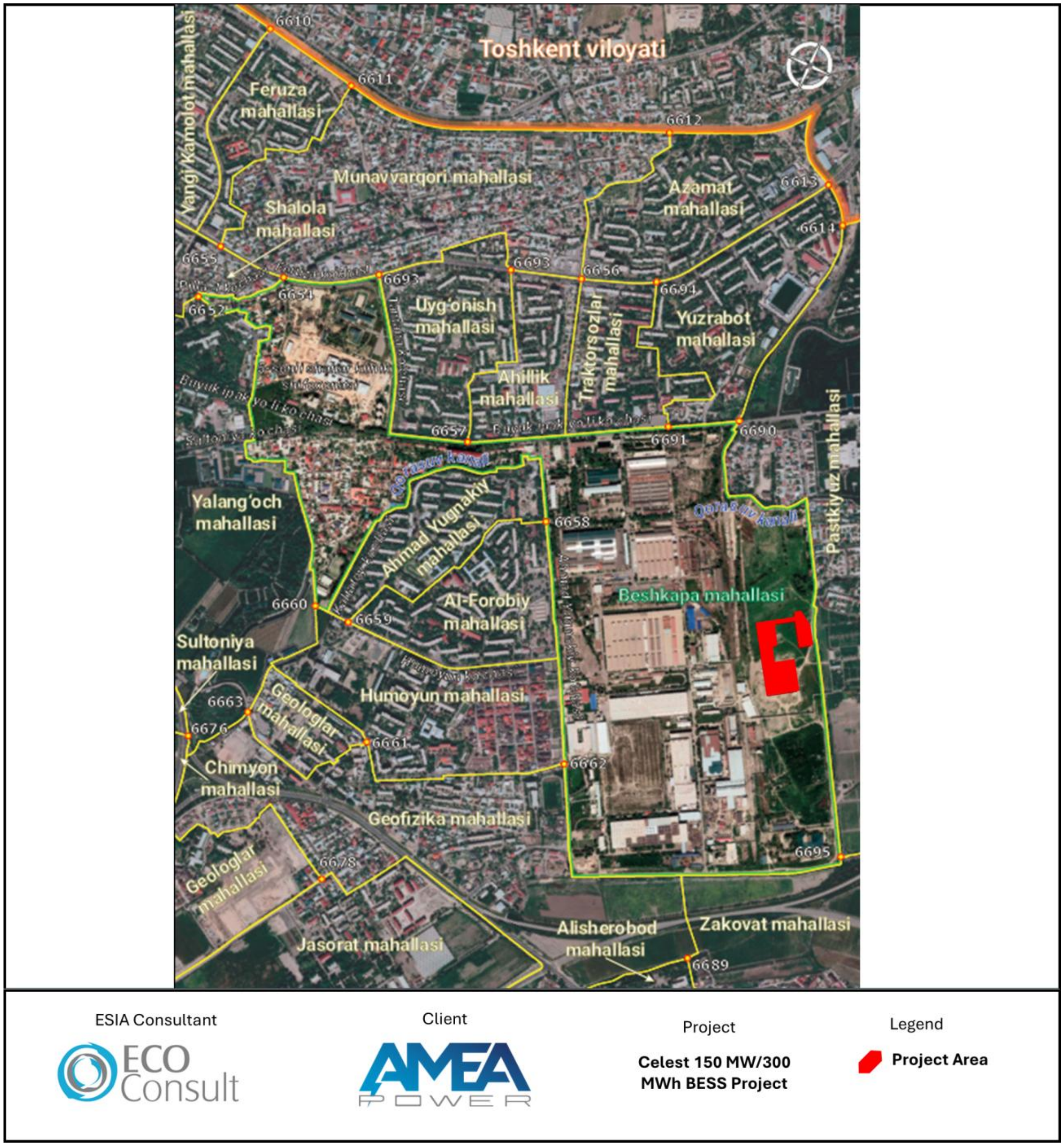


**Figure 3: Project Site and Closest Communities**

The above communities have been selected based on the following rationale:

- Project Location: Beshkapa has been included as it is the location where the BESS site is administratively situated. It is considered an industrial and commercial area, and those areas in direct proximity could be potentially impacted from construction and operational activities such as noise and dust during construction.
- Proximity to Residential Areas: Paskiyuz and Yuzrobot are the closest community settlements to the Project site with residential housing. The closest residential house is located around 90m from the

site. In addition, the transmission route passes through Paskiyuz Mahalla, where the closest residence lies about 50 m from the route. Their relative proximity suggests that residents may experience project-related positive and negative impacts such as noise / dust during construction, or employment opportunities, etc.

- Access Road and Infrastructure: Geofizika has been included given that the Project will utilize the main access road closest to the Project site which passes through this Mahalla. Due to its location along the route used for project logistics and personnel movement, it may be indirectly affected by Project activities.

Figure 4**Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.** presents the four (4) Mahallas.

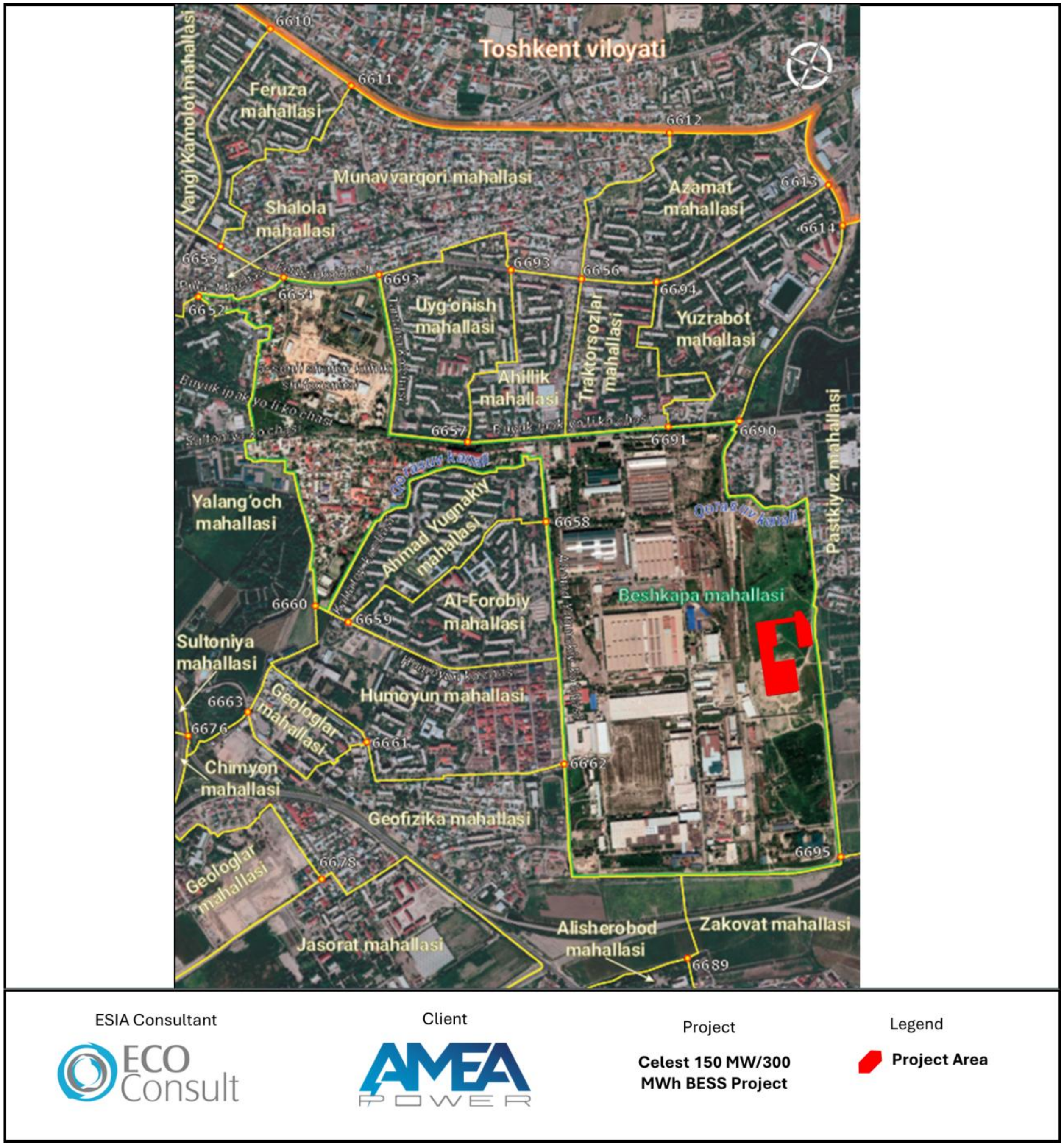


**Figure 4: Project Site and Closest Communities**

## 2.3 Project Components

### *2.3.1 Outline of BESS Technology*

The Project aims to connect a BESS with a production capacity of 150 Mega Watt (MW) to the national grid to enhance grid stability and support the integration of renewable energy sources. Nearby renewable facilities, including the Tashkent 200 MW PV Plant, Bo'ka 263 MW plant, Tashkent riverside 200 MW PV plant, and other solar projects connected through the Tractorsoz Substation, will notably benefit from the BESS's operation. The BESS operates by absorbing excess electricity from the grid during periods of low demand and high generation, from renewable energy, and discharging the stored energy back into the grid when demand exceeds supply.

The system is designed to discharge at maximum power for up to two hours, followed by reduced power output for an additional six hours, offering a total discharge window of up to eight hours depending on grid needs.

To enable this functionality, the stored electrical energy passes through several conversion stages. Initially, energy is stored in the battery modules in Direct Current (DC) form. A Power Conversion System (PCS) then converts the DC into Alternating Current (AC) at medium voltage. This AC power is subsequently stepped up to high voltage through power transformers to meet the interconnection requirements of the national grid. The conditioned power is then delivered to the grid via dedicated interconnection facilities.

The figure below presents the key components of a BESS each of which is discussed in further details throughout the subsequent sections.

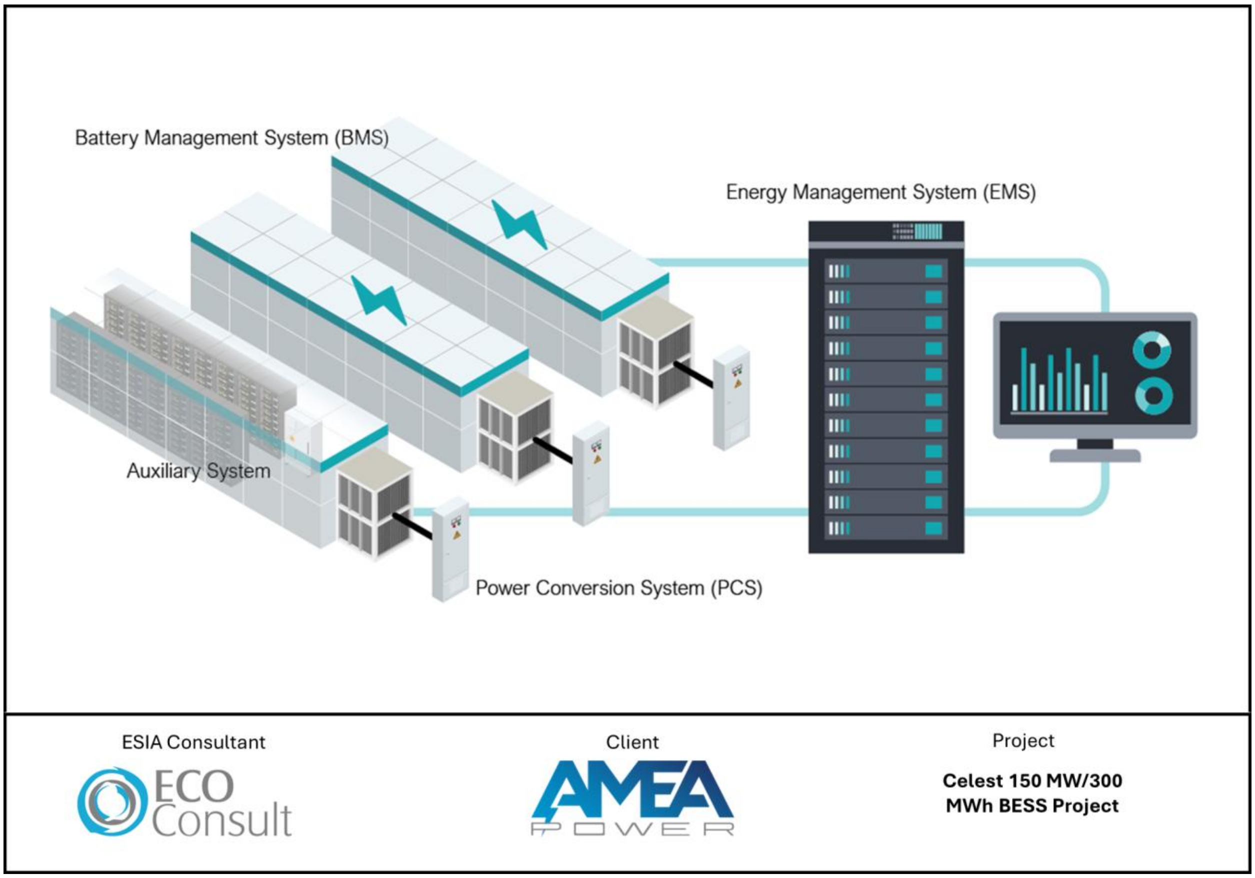


**Figure 5: BESS key components**

### 2.3.2 Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

The key components of the BESS as per the figure above are identified and described below.

- Power Conversion Station (PCS) which converts electricity from DC to AC and steps up the voltage.
- Lithium-Ion Batteries (BESS) which store the electricity.

- Energy Management System (EMS) oversees power flows, monitors the state of charge, and ensures efficient use of stored energy. The system can discharge energy into the grid or absorb excess power when needed. The EMS will be operated under the supervision of the Project Operator, which will receive real-time instructions from a National Dispatch Centre under the Ministry of Energy. Any EMS troubleshooting will be carried out by the Project operator.
- Monitoring systems for battery health and auxiliary systems, (e.g. fire protection, smoke protection, gas detection, etc.).

### 2.3.3 Infrastructure and Utilities

The following highlights the key infrastructure and utility elements that will be required for the Project.

- Substation (including associated civils works and buildings): A substation will be built within the Project site to manage the output from the BESS facility. It will include the necessary equipment to prepare the electricity for export to the grid.
- Grid Connection: The Project will be connected to the nearby Traktorsoz Electric Substation through a 110 kV underground transmission line. The interconnection works will be undertaken by the EPC Contractor after which it will be handed over to NEGU. Where the line crosses an existing water canal, it will be installed through an underground conduit system. The cable burial depth will be approximately 1 meter or as per applicable local standards.
- Amenities Building: Utility infrastructure will be provided to meet Project needs and comply with applicable standards. The building will include offices and up to three toilets and one shower.
- Access route and internal road: The Project site will be primarily accessed via the road passing through the Small Industrial Zone (SIZ), as shown in Figure 6 below in green, providing a direct connection to the site, where a new internal road will be constructed to facilitate the transport of equipment and materials during construction, and to ensure access during operation phase. There will also be an alternative route which will be from Akhmad Yugnaki Street which leads to single existing route that connects to the existing road network outside the Project boundary and follows a currently unpaved (basecourse) track. According to available information, this road is expected to be upgraded soon by the local District, as it falls under their mandate. If required, the Project will repair any damage caused to public roads by Project-related traffic.
- Security Measures: The Project will implement security measures to control access to the site such as surveillance system , security guards, fencing, etc.
- Water supply: The EPC Contractor will be responsible for procuring the water which will be transported to the site by truck. The specific source of water will be determined at a later stage.

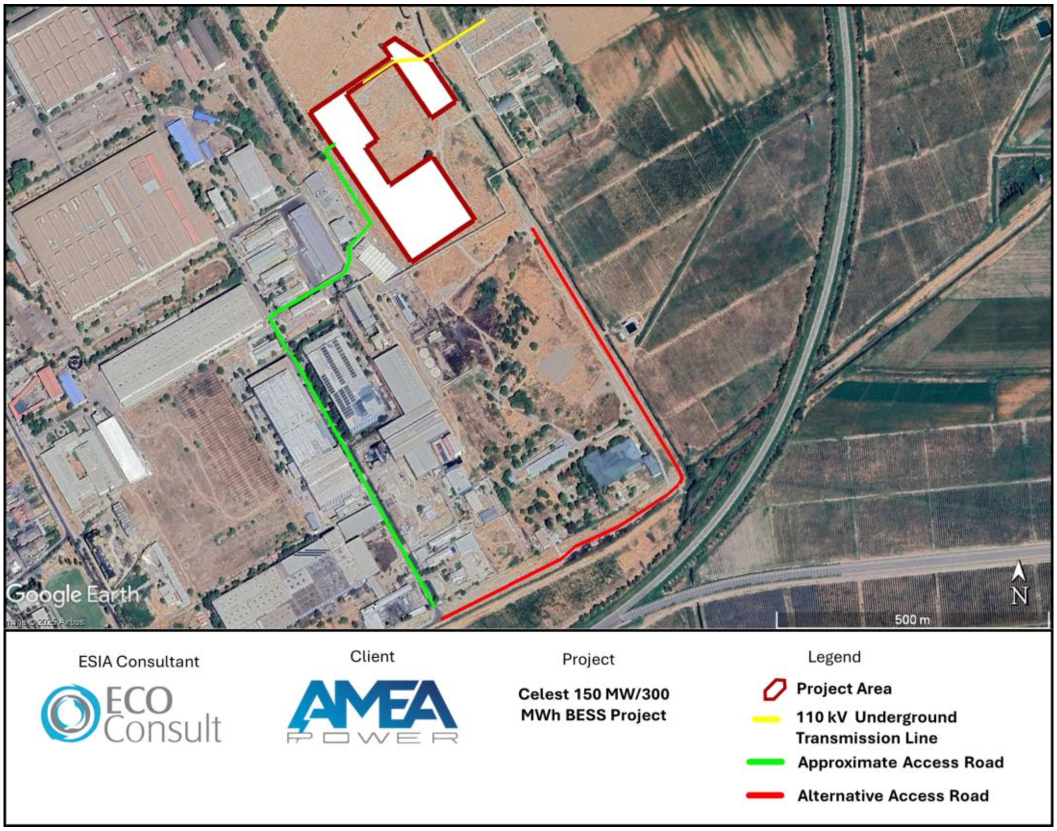


**Figure 6: Access Road**


**Figure 7: Celest BESS Project Components and Layout**


**Figure 8: Water Canal**

### 2.3.4 Other Temporary Components

There are additional Project components that will be required on a temporary basis throughout the construction phase of the Project in particular. Those are identified below. The location of such components will be within the Project footprint.

- Site Offices: temporary offices that will be used by the Developer and EPC Contractor staff during the construction phase, including all necessary amenities such as toilets, canteen, and ablution facilities, to be provided by the EPC Contractor in line with international requirements.

- Laydown areas: this is a temporary storage area where tools, materials, equipment and vehicles are stored when not in use.

- Generators: generators will be used for supplying electricity throughout the construction phase of the Project for various power supply requirements. There will be no temporary power supply lines erected before or during the construction period.

- Transport Vehicles and Machinery: During the construction phase, a fleet of machinery—including excavators, Tractor-Loader-Backhoes (TLBs), concrete mixers, concrete pumps, cranes, compaction rollers, and water trucks—will be mobilized.

## 2.4 Overview of Project Activities

This section presents the likely activities to take place during the Project development and which will include four distinct phases: (i) planning and design, (ii) construction, (iii) operation, and (iv) decommissioning. Each of which is summarized below.

### 2.4.1 Planning and Design Phase

This phase will involve the following:

- Completion of all required studies for the Project development. This will include but not limited to topography study, geotechnical study, etc.;
- Obtaining and finalizing required financing from the financing institutions;
- Obtaining required permits;
- Appointment of EPC Contractor; and
- Preparation of detailed design and layout requirements.

### 2.4.2 Construction Phase

The typical activities that will take place during the planning and construction phase includes the following:

- Mobilization of Project team and equipment to the site and recruitment of workers;
- Undertake mobilization works for temporary facilities which will involve deployment of site offices and laydown areas;
- Shipment of the BESS components (i.e. containers) by road from the nearest port to the Project site. This will be through hauling trucks. Each container (i.e. each PCS and BESS) will require 1 vehicle to transport. It will be a heavy load but inside a standard 20-foot shipping container for the BESS and 40-foot shipping container for the PCS. No more than 140 truck trips containers in total are expected to be required.
- Site preparation for the installation of battery container foundations, involving survey works, site clearing, grading, levelling, limited excavation, and cement works;
- Excavation and backfilling activities for foundations and cable trenches;
- Installation of BESS components, including battery containers, associated electrical and power conversion systems, transformers, and auxiliary infrastructure, likely using onsite mobile cranes;
- Construction works to include civil works, electrical works and mechanical works for the development of the substation and building infrastructure, etc.; and
- Decommissioning of temporary facilities.

### 2.4.3 Operation Phase

- BESS projects generally require regular preventative, predictive, and corrective maintenance as recommended by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). For this Project, operations will be largely automated, with preventative and predictive maintenance including inspections, remote monitoring, spare-parts management, and reporting. Corrective maintenance will mainly involve replacing defective modules, performing diagnostics, and functional testing. OEM or authorized service partners will oversee recommissioning as needed to ensure performance and safety compliance.
- Maintenance activities are performed on a weekly, monthly, semi-annual, and annual basis to ensure optimal performance and safety.
- The BESS facility will maintain interconnection to the grid continuously, except during interruptions or maintenance periods, with the system actively charging and discharging for approximately 8 hours daily.
- Maintenance will also take place through a dedicated team. Typical routine maintenance time for a modern BESS is approximately 40 hours per year. Non-routine maintenance may be of a similar order. Although minimal, maintenance activities may include battery system checks, thermal management system servicing, inverter and electrical component inspections, software updates, and safety system testing.

### 2.4.4 Decommissioning Phase

According to the BSSA agreement, the Project is expected to be operational for 15 years. In the case of complete decommissioning of BESS, the battery enclosures and associated equipment will be taken down, disassembled into components, and removed from the site.

Prior to transportation, the system will be fully de-energized and all components appropriately packaged to ensure safe handling. Depending on their condition, battery modules and systems may be refurbished for use in other projects or sent for final disposal or recycled in accordance with applicable environmental regulations. Foundations will typically be removed, and excavated areas will be backfilled and restored with gravel or vegetation. Internal road networks may be retained, while gates and fences, including those surrounding the substation and battery units, will be dismantled.

## 2.5 Project Schedule

As stated by the Developer, the Project schedule includes a Planning and Design phase from Q2 2025 to Q3 2025, followed by Construction from Q1 2026 to Q1 2027. The Commercial Operation Date (COD) is expected in Q1 2027. The Project is designed to operate for a period of 15 years following the start of operations.

## 2.6 Workforce Requirements

The estimated workforce required for the Project during the construction and operation phases is as follows; however, this will be confirmed at a later stage of the Project.

- Around 200 job opportunities, at peak during the construction phase for a duration of approximately 12 months. This will mainly include 80 skilled job opportunities (to include engineers, technicians, consultants, surveyors, etc.) and 120 semi-skilled and unskilled job opportunities (such as laborers, security personnel, housekeeping, etc.).
- Around 15 full-time job opportunities during the operation phase for a duration of 15 years. This will include around 5 skilled job opportunities (such as engineers, technicians, administrative employees, etc.), 5 semi-skilled and 5 unskilled job opportunities (such as security personnel, drivers, etc.).

The Developer is committed to adhering to transparent recruitment procedures which include local community members. In addition, the Developer is aiming to hire local community members to the greatest extent possible throughout the construction and operation phase for skilled and unskilled jobs, where community members have the prerequisite skills and qualities for the job. Recruitment will be undertaken in accordance with Uzbekistan law, on fair assessment of skills and qualities for the job. All employees will be subject to normal human resource practices and will have to conduct themselves in accordance with the Developer’s disciplinary code. No discrimination, on ethnic, gender, race or other such demographic factors will be allowed during recruitment. The only preferential factor shall be the fact those that are directly affected, subject to meeting all the prerequisites for recruitment of the specific job.

## 2.7 Other Developments in the Area

The Project site is located next to Traktorsoz substation (which it will connect to), which was commissioned in 1985. There is also electrical infrastructure around the Project site, mainly including Overhead Transmission Lines (OHTL) as well as Overhead Distribution Lines (OHDL).

The southern parts of the Project site is surrounded by an industrial area known as “Small Industrial Zone” (SIZ) which consists of commercial entities and small-scale light industries with limited production volumes. This includes enterprises involved in plastic-related production, cardboard box production, warehouses, etc. There are no heavy industrial activity within this area.

To the north of the Project site is a residential area. Figure 9 below illustrates the OHTL alignment in relation to the Project site, including the SIZ to the south and the residential area to the north.

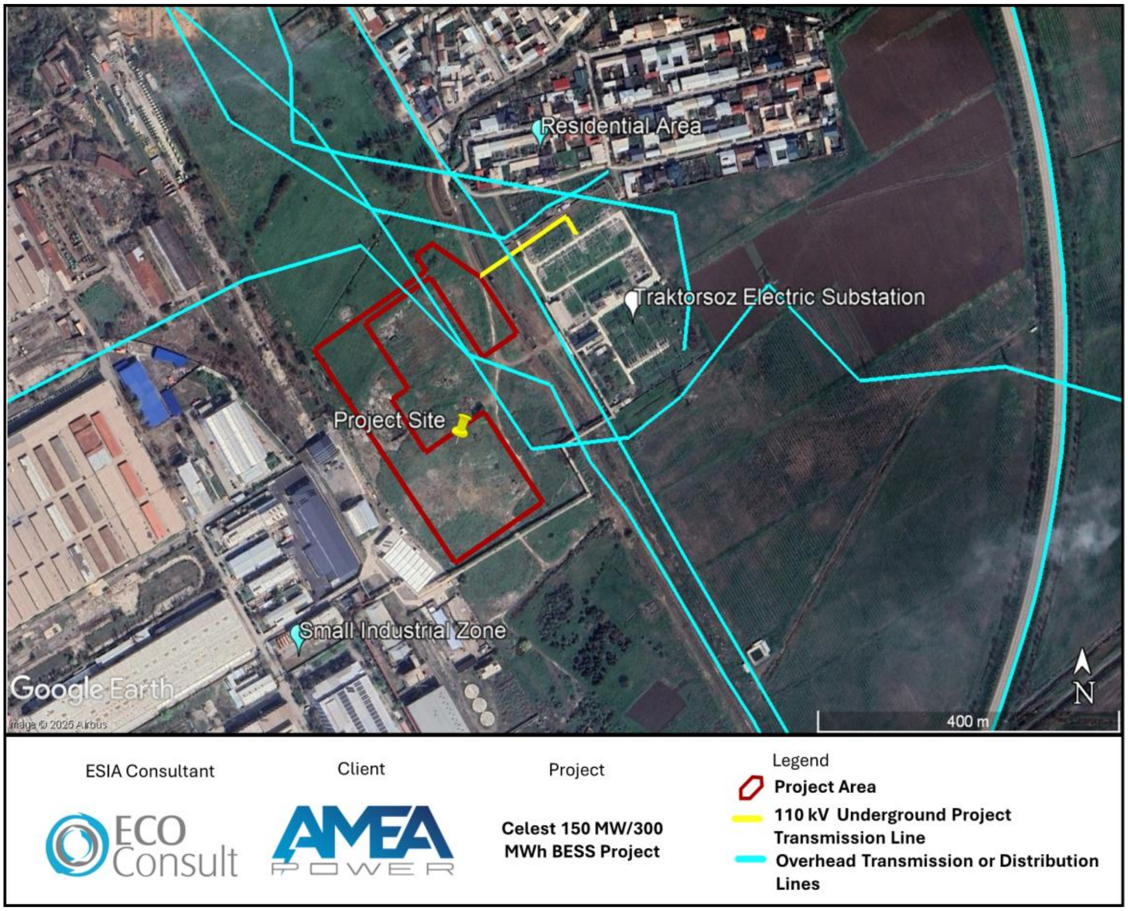


Figure 9: OHTL around the Project Site

# 3. REGULATORY CONTEXT

## 3.1 Uzbekistan Legislation Requirements

Requirements for stakeholder consultation and engagement within Uzbekistan is mainly related to the local Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The Uzbekistan EIA requirements are set forth within the "Resolution №541 of the Cabinet of Ministers on Procedure of EIA Mechanism (07 September 2020)". The Resolution stipulates requirements for stakeholder consultation during the EIA process and which could involve public meetings, hearings, or other mechanisms to gather input and feedback from individuals and organizations who may be affected by the project. Annex (3) of the Resolution in particular discusses the rules and regulations for conducting public consultations.

According to the Resolution, the following should be considered in specific:

- Public consultations should include discussions and decision making regarding planned activities that may have any negative impact on the environment;
- The following entities shall be considered as part of the public consultations: local Mahallas, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), local communities, and the mass media, in addition, to representatives of local departments of Ministry of Ecology who are to be considered as the observers of the public consultations;
- Expenses, if any, that are related to the public consultations should be financed by the Developer; and
- A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) should be prepared and the public consultation should be based on the review of the NTS by providing all participants with equal rights to share their opinions, suggestions and any concerns.

Overall, Resolution No. 541 of 2020 plays a crucial role in shaping how stakeholder engagement is conducted in Uzbekistan concerning environmental assessments. By establishing clear legal requirements and aligning the EIA process with Uzbekistan's legislation, it seeks to promote transparency, accountability, and the sustainable development of projects while ensuring that stakeholders have a meaningful role in shaping the outcomes of these assessments.

## 3.2 Lender E&S Requirements

The Developer will be seeking financing for the Project from International Financial Institutions (IFIs) – mainly European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Therefore, the Developer wishes to design and manage the Project in accordance with good international industry practice and standards. This SEP meets international best practice requirements to include the relevant E&S requirements of EBRD.

EBRD's Environmental and Social Requirement (ESR) 10 is related to Stakeholder Engagement. EBRD considers stakeholder engagement as an essential part of good business practice. In particular, effective community engagement is central to the successful management of risks and impacts on communities, as well as central to achieving enhanced community benefits. The requirement entailed identifying people or communities that are or could be affected by the Project, as well as other interested parties; ensure that such stakeholders are appropriately engaged on environmental and social issues that could potentially affect them through a process of information disclosure and meaningful consultation; and maintain a constructive relationship with stakeholders on an ongoing basis through meaningful engagement during project implementation.

EBRD ESR 10 sets out the following requirements of stakeholder engagement during project preparation:

- A SEP must be developed and implemented for projects that are likely to have adverse environmental or social impacts and issues, tailored to take into account the main characteristics and interests of the affected parties and other interested parties. Further details are provided in Sections 8 -17 of the ESIA and Section 3 of the NTS.
- The first step in successful stakeholder engagement is for the client to identify the various individuals or groups who (i) are affected or likely to be affected (directly or indirectly) by the project ("affected parties"), or (ii) may have an interest in the project ("other interested parties"). Resources for public information and consultation should focus on affected parties, in the first instance.
- As part of the stakeholder identification process, the client will identify individuals and groups that may be differentially or disproportionately affected by the project because of their disadvantaged or vulnerable status. The client will also identify how stakeholders may be affected and the extent of the potential (actual or perceived) impacts. Where impacts are perceived, additional communication may be required to provide information and reassurance of the assessed level of impacts. An adequate level of detail must be included in the stakeholder identification and analysis so as to enable the Bank to determine the level of communication that is appropriate for the project under consideration. Employees are always considered stakeholders.
- The Client will inform the EBRD how communication with the identified stakeholders will be handled throughout project preparation and implementation.
- Requires clients to disclose relevant project information, as soon as available, to help stakeholders understand the risks, impacts and opportunities of the project.
- Requires clients to establish a procedure for external communication, proportionate to the risks and potential adverse impacts of the project, which includes methods to receive and respond to external communications from project stakeholders.
- Requires establishing a stakeholder grievance mechanism, that is proportionate to the risks and potentially adverse impacts of the project, to be aware of and respond to stakeholder concerns about the project in a timely manner.

# 4. IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

## 4.1 Stakeholder Identification

The purpose of stakeholder identification is to identify and prioritise Project stakeholders for consultation. Stakeholder identification is an ongoing process, and thus key stakeholders will be identified during different stages of the Project. A systematic approach is used to map the stakeholders based on the Project zone of impacts. In this approach, by mapping the zone of social impacts, stakeholders are identified by the impact area.

As a result of the stakeholder mapping, Project stakeholders are categorised into the following main categories:

1. People and groups who will be directly or indirectly affected by the project (such as local communities);
2. People and groups who may participate in the implementation of the project (such as investors and lenders as well as workers);
3. People and groups who are not affected by the project development per se may but have a possibility to influence and make decisions on implementation of the Project (such as Ministries or regulatory agencies).

The main groups of stakeholders identified so far are listed in the table below. The list can be updated and modified in the course of the Project development and as a result of cooperation of the parties.

**Table 3: Identified Groups of Stakeholders**

| Stakeholder Group | Description | Relevance |
|---|---|---|
| **Stakeholders who may be directly or indirectly affected by the Project** | | |
| Local communities which as identified include:<br>▪ Beshkapa Mahalla<br>▪ Paskiyuz Mahalla<br>▪ Yuzrobot Mahalla<br>▪ Geofizika Mahalla | | This includes the following groups within the local communities in specific:<br>▪ Community Members: local community members have a vested interest in the Project due to mainly potential for job opportunities. In addition, local community members could be impacted by other potential negative impacts (e.g. noise, dust, etc.). Such impacts are discussed and identified within the ESIA.<br>▪ Neighboring Businesses: Located within the Small Industrial Zone (SIZ) such as: Hi Textile, OOO "Master Steel" Industrial equipment supplier, Twin Stone LLC, SLIV Print, Kamoliddin Omad Baraka LLC, and Tasty Production MChJ - Confectionery Wholesaler.<br>▪ Community Leaders: They are socially active members and known figureheads for local community members, who may or may not hold government positions (who are known in local terminology as Asakal and Makhalla Faollari)<br>▪ Business Community (local subcontractors): such groups have a vested interest in the Project due to potential for procurement opportunities such as subcontracting works (e.g. civil works, provision of food and amenities, etc.) |

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| | | ▪ Surrounding Community: community directly facing the Project site are considered also to be most relevant as they will be facing key impacts such as noise, dust, etc. Such impacts are discussed and identified within the ESIA. Figure below presents these communities in particular. |
| Project Affected Households (PAHs) which mainly include grazers within the area. | | BESS construction and operation could entail economic displacement impacts on seven (7) identified PAHs due to disturbance to grazing activities and reduced access to pasture land. The Project footprint affects approximately 4 ha of the 10 ha pasture, reducing the available grazing area to around 5 ha and requiring all seven households to share the remaining land. Of the seven households, three directly use the Project area (50% overlap), two have minor overlap (10%), and two do not currently use the area but will still be impacted due to reduced grazing space. Please refer to the Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) for additional details. |
| **Stakeholders who may Participate in Implementation of the Project** | | |
| Investor / lender (EBRD) | Entities that will provide financing for the Project development. | They have interest in ensuring that the Project is developed and implemented in accordance with their E&S requirements and standards such as EBRD E&S Policy 2024 and will monitor the compliance of the Project against such requirements. |
| Workers | This includes all workforce including but not limited to workers from Developer team, workers from EPC Contractor, Project Operator and any involved subcontractors. This will entail 200 workers during construction and 15 workers during operation. | Issues related to labor and working conditions such as contracts, working hours, grievance mechanism, leaves, and other. |
| **Stakeholders who may have a possibility to influence and make decisions on implementation of the project and/or may have an interest in the Project** | | |
| **Government Ministries** | | |
| Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change | Local government body mandated to implement state laws on environment protection and management and the use of natural resources. | Review and approval of ESIA, issuance of environmental permit, monitoring implementation of Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and compliance with other conditions, as applicable |
| Ministry of Water Resources | Local government body mandated to protect and manage water resources. | Ensuring water requirements of the Project do not impact and affect existing water resources. |
| Ministry of Health | Official governmental entity responsible for setting health policies and legislations as well as ensuring protection of the public. | Ensuring that community health and safety is maintained for local communities in accordance with public health laws and regulations. |
| Ministry of Transport | Responsible for the provision and maintenance of transport infrastructure including road networks | Ensure that transportation requirements of the project (BESS in particular) are undertaken properly and in accordance with relevant legislations and without impacting existing highways and road networks. |

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| | used to transport personnel and equipment to the Project area. | |
| Ministry of Labor | Official governmental entity responsible for setting labor policies and legislations as well as ensuring protection of labor rights and working conditions. | Ensuring that labor rights and proper working condition are maintained for the Project in accordance with labor laws and regulations. |
| Ministry of Culture | The ministry is the entity responsible for the preservation and protection of archaeology and cultural heritage. | Such entity must be notified in case of chance finds related to archeology and cultural heritage for implementation of specific requirements. |
| Ministry of Emergency Situations | The ministry is responsible for preventing and responding to natural disasters, industrial accidents, and other emergencies to protect the population and national infrastructure. | Such entity must be coordinated with and notified of emergency response procedures related to the Project. |
| Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology | Official governmental body responsible for overall land use planning related to geology exploration, oil and gas exploration activities and other. | Project area could be located within an oil and gas exploration concessions, coordination and approvals are required from this entity in particular. |
| Ministry of Digital Technologies | Official governmental body responsible for planning and management of telecommunication, radio/TV and other related elements. | Project area could be located within above or underground infrastructure utilities such as underground telecommunication cables. |
| Cadastral Agency under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan | Official governmental body responsible for overall land use planning and allocations. | Ensuring that Project boundary does not overlap or conflict with any existing or planned governmental land uses within the area. |
| JSC National Electric Grid of Uzbekistan | Entity responsible for electricity transmission development projects in the country. | Off-taker and entity that signed the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Company. They will also be responsible for operating the OHTL once constructed. |
| Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan | This is a government agency that works on programs and social issues for youth. | Their specific focus is expected to be the potential for inclusion and engagement of young people to become part of the workforce as well as other overall development process of the project. |
| State Committee of Family and Women | This is a government entity that works on programs | Their specific focus is expected to be the potential for inclusion of and engagement of women groups within the workforce as well as other overall development process of the project. |

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| | and social issues for women. | |
| **Regional and Local Government Ministries and District Authorities** | | |
| Khokimiyat of Mirzo Ulugbek District | Responsible for acting on behalf of its citizens for the sustainable development of the District. | Specific focus areas are expected to be grievance management, land-related impacts, local employment opportunities, and community development benefits implemented by the Developer. |
| ▪ Beshkapa Mahalla<br>▪ Geofizika Mahalla<br>▪ Yuzrabot Mahalla<br>▪ Pastkiyuz Mahallah | Responsible for acting on behalf of its citizens for the sustainable development of the Mahalla. | Specific interest areas are expected to include obtaining overall Project updates, grievance management, land-related impacts as well as ensuring benefits to local communities through procurement and employment opportunities as well as social responsibility programs. |
| Mirzo Ulug'bek District Emergency Management Department (Fire Department) | Entity responsible for managing emergency response and fire safety services within Mirzo Ulug'bek District. | Their specific focus is expected to include fire safety and emergency preparedness, given the unique requirements of a battery fire and the associated risks such as toxic gases, vapor cloud explosions, and re-ignition. |
| **NGOs** | | |
| Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds | National organization involved in the protection of nature within the Project Area and wider region. <u>This society is the local partner for Birdlife International in Uzbekistan.</u> | Their specific focus is likely to include the potential impacts on biodiversity during construction and operation from the Project. |
| Association of Persons with Disabilities of Uzbekistan | This is an active NGO for Disabled People that has branches throughout Uzbekistan | Their specific focus is expected to be the potential for disabled people to become part of the workforce as well as other overall development process of the project. |
| Ne Molchi | NGO that works within the area of women domestic violence. | Could be interested to participate in the GBVH grievances from workers or stakeholders (such as local communities). |
| Relevant health service providers and Civil Defense | Respond to emergency incidents should they occur onsite | They could provide health care services to the Project and its workforce (such as routine and non-routine medical examinations, checkups, etc.) including emergency response should they occur (such as workforce occupational accidents). |
| **Academic and Research Institutions** | | |
| RES group of Academy of Sciences | Branch under the Academy of science with specific focus on environmental protection and management. | Potential interest to obtain information and updates on potential impacts of the Project on key E&S attributes to include biodiversity, archeology and cultural heritage, environment and other. |

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| Research Institute for the Human Science under Academy of Science | Branch under the Academy of science with specific focus on archeology and cultural heritage. | |
| National Institute of Zoology under Academy of Science | Branch under the Academy of science with specific focus on biodiversity. | |


**Figure 10: Closest Communities to the Site**

<u>Vulnerable Groups</u>

A key stakeholder group to which particular attention must be considered during identification are vulnerable groups. Those are groups that, due to their socio-economic characteristics, may experience impacts more severely and/or disproportionally compared to the rest of the community members.

Vulnerable groups are project specific and depend on a range of issues which must be understood such as project location, socio-economic and demographic context, as well as the nature of the development and type of impacts anticipated. Vulnerable groups may be severely affected by the Project by virtue of their physical disability, social or economic standing, and limited education, lack of employment or access to land.

The key vulnerable groups within the context of the Project and their relevance are summarized in the table below.

**Table 4: List of Vulnerable Groups and Their Relevance**

| Group | Relevance | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Project Affected Households (PAHs) which mainly include grazers within the area. | BESS construction and operation could entail economic displacement impacts on the identified PAHs due to disturbance to grazing activities and reduced access to pasture land. The Project footprint affects approximately 4 ha of the 10 ha pasture, reducing the available grazing area to around 5 ha and requiring all seven households to share the remaining land. Of the seven households, three directly use the Project area (50% overlap), two have minor overlap (10%), and two do not currently use the area but will still be impacted due to reduced grazing space. Please refer to the Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) for additional details. | A total of 7 PAHs have been identified and engaged as part of the Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP).<br><br>The stakeholder engagement strategy and plan within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) specifically targets PAHs to ensure their concerns, expectations, and feedback are incorporated throughout the Project lifecycle. |
| Women groups | Could be considered vulnerable as cultural norms could limit their participation in the decision-making process in general that is related to the Project. | Women representatives were engaged as part of the scoping process.<br><br>Stakeholder engagement strategy and plan within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) targets women groups. |
| Disabled groups | Could be considered vulnerable groups mainly due to physical disability which could limit their access to information on the Project as well as participation in the decision-making process in general that is related to the Project. | Stakeholder engagement strategy and plan within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) targets disabled group representatives. SEP will emphasize on venue accessibility as applicable. |
| People living in poverty / underprivileged communities | Could be considered vulnerable as their status could limit their access to information on the Project as well as participation in the decision-making process in general that is related to the Project. | It was ensured that all consultation and engagement activities undertaken as part of the scoping process provided stakeholder materials free of charge (e.g. venue, handouts, etc.). Similarly, the stakeholder engagement strategy within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) emphasizes such a requirement as well. |
| The Aged | Could be considered vulnerable by limitations of access to participate in the Project related community decision-making process. | Practical logistical support will be provided to assist aged participants or their representatives to enable them to attend the disclosure process.<br><br>Stakeholder engagement strategy and plan within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) targets the elder representatives. |
| The Youth | Could be considered vulnerable due to their young adult, unmarried, non-asset-owning status, yet likely to be savvier in 21st century technology than their elders, but may be unable to contribute in Project related | Youth representatives were engaged as part of the scoping process.<br><br>Stakeholder engagement strategy and plan within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) targets youth groups. |

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| | community decision-making process, which will affect their generation more than most. | |
| Language | Specific groups within local communities might have different languages. This could limit their access to information on the Project as well as participation in the decision-making process in general that is related to the Project. | All consultation and engagement activities undertaken as part of the ESIA or to be identified within the SEP (including materials and presentations) were/are undertaken in accordance with the key languages of the local communities (i.e. Uzbek and Russian as applicable). |

Another group that could be classified as vulnerable is ethnic minorities; however, based on the analysis below, they are not relevant to the Project.

## 5. SUMMARY OF PAST STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

This section provides a summary of all stakeholders that were previously consulted and engaged throughout the Project – mainly as part of the ESIA that is currently being undertaken for the Project. Annex 11.5 provides a summary of the stakeholder groups that were engaged and the main objective and outcome.

The objective of such consultations was to:

- Introduce the project (rationale, objective, location, key components, etc.)
- Explain and discuss overall methodology for ESIA and LRP Study
- Explain and discuss key anticipated impacts as relevant
- Identify and determine additional requirements or key issues of concern to be take into account for the ESIA and LRP study.

Annex 11.5 also includes outcomes of targeted consultations with governmental entities, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with the local communities and direct consultations with the surrounding community.

## 6. FUTURE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY, PLAN AND RESPONSILIBITIES

The table below identifies the stakeholder engagement strategy and plan to include stakeholders relevant to the Project (as identified in earlier under **Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.**), objective of consultation with each group, the communication methods and tools, time frame and responsible entity for undertaking such consultations.

A Project Stakeholder Register will be updated monthly for the Project which serves as a log for all consultation and engagement undertaken for the Project. This shall be reviewed and updated regularly by the assigned Social Manager. A template is provided in "Section Annex 4 – Project Stakeholder Register Form" which will be used either in Microsoft Word or Excel format.

Table 5: Stakeholder Engagement Activities

| Stakeholder | Objectives | Communication Methods and Tools | Timeframe / Frequency | Responsibility |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Stakeholders who may be directly or indirectly affected by the Project** | | | | |
| Local communities which as identified in earlier includes:<br>▪ Beshkapa Mahalla<br>▪ Paskiyuz Mahalla<br>▪ Yuzrobot Mahalla<br>▪ Geofizika Mahalla | 1. Announce key project milestones<br>2. Updates on project construction schedule and phasing<br>3. Announce stakeholder grievance mechanism<br>4. Setup employment and procurement procedure<br>5. Updates on employment and procurement opportunities<br>6. Updates on stakeholder engagement activities<br>7. Updates on E&S management plan implementation<br>8. Educate on key E&S risks<br>9. Potential risks of influx, and how influx-related impacts are to be monitored and controlled<br>10. The presence of security personnel and the steps taken to ensure their good behaviour towards local people.<br>11. Obtain feedback | Undertake a local community session in coordination with the relevant Mahalla Community Union (for a total of 4 sessions) that will target the following groups in particular: (i) Mahalla Committee including Mahalla Chair; (ii) village leaders that include elected leaders, religious leaders, business leaders and key members of the local community; (iii) women, youth and disabled (discussed below); (iv) other local community members. Session will be properly announced days in advance through appropriate local platforms and will be open invitation for anyone to attend. | Once every 6 months during construction<br>Once every year during operation | Developer Social Manager along with EPC Contractor CLO (as applicable) |
| | | Prepare and distribute adverts/flyers with key update messages to local communities. This should include Mirzo Ulug'bek District Khokimiyat and the 4 relevant Mahallas. | Quarterly during construction (every 3 months)<br>Annual during operation | Developer Social Manager along with EPC Contractor CLO (as applicable) |
| | | Follow-up phone calls will be made to inform those communities directly facing the Project site (as shown in **Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.** earlier) with key update messages. | Quarterly during construction (every 3 months)<br>Annual during operation | Developer Social Manager along with EPC Contractor CLO (as applicable) |
| | | Publish SEP in English, Russian, and Uzbek language online with hard copies at the District Khokimiyat and applicable Mahallas. | Once / to be checked monthly to ensure documentation is in place | Developer Social Manager along with EPC Contractor CLO (as applicable) |

| Stakeholder | Objectives | Communication Methods and Tools | Timeframe / Frequency | Responsibility |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Women and youth groups | | Local community session will target female and youth representatives as identified by: (i) the female Mahalla community member; (ii) Family and Women's Committee (iii) Youth Union<br><br>In specific at the end of the local community session a focus groups will be held with women attendees to obtain any feedback and provide any additional information required in specific. | Once every 6 months during construction<br><br>Once every year during operation | Developer Social Manager along with EPC Contractor CLO (as applicable) |
| Disabled | | Local community session will target Association of Persons with Disabilities of Uzbekistan. | Once every 6 months during construction<br><br>Once every year during operation | Developer Social Manager along with EPC Contractor CLO (as applicable) |
| Project Affected Households (PAHs) which mainly include grazers within the area. | Ensure livelihood restoration measures are implemented and monitored. | Refer to LRP | Refer to LRP | Refer to LRP |
| **Stakeholders who may participate in implementation of the project** | | | | |
| Lender | Updates on the Project including environmental and social issues (e.g. environmental performance, grievance mechanism implementation, community integration plan, etc.) | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) | TBD | Developer E&S team as applicable |
| | | 2. Submission of Annual E&S Monitoring Report (AMR). | Annually | |
| Workers | Provide updates on contract requirements on employment to include duration, salary, leaves, etc. | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings | Upon employment | Developer Team as applicable / EPC Team as applicable |
| | Provide explanation on worker grievance mechanism | 1. As part of Induction Training<br>2. As part of Toolbox Talks | Upon employment / continuous | |

| Stakeholder | Objectives | Communication Methods and Tools | Timeframe / Frequency | Responsibility |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Provide general/specialized training requirements as applicable to include but not limited to induction, Toolbox Talks (TBT), occupational health and safety, waste management, etc. | 1. As per training plan to be developed | Upon employment / continuous | |
| **Stakeholders who may have a possibility to influence and make decisions on implementation of the project and/or may have an interest in the Project** | | | | |
| **National and Regional Governmental Entities** | | | | |
| Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change | Obtain an OVOS (local environmental permit) for Project. | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required)<br>2. Correspondence and official letters | Before commencement of construction | EPC Contractor |
| | Payment to compensate for the loss of tree species recorded onsite. | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required)<br>2. Correspondence and official letters | Before commencement of construction | Developer |
| Other | Obtain all other required permits and non-objections from all relevant stakeholders to the Project as applicable. | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required)<br>2. Correspondence and official letters | Before commencement of construction | EPC Contractor |
| 1. Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change<br>2. Ministry of Water Resources<br>3. Ministry of Health<br>4. Ministry of Labour<br>5. Ministry of Transport<br>6. Ministry of Emergency Situations | Some governmental stakeholders might require undertaking certain inspections or auditing exercises and/or might require certain updates/information on the implementation of the Project. | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) | Upon occurrence | Developer team as applicable |
| | | 2. Correspondence and official letters (if required) | Upon occurrence | Developer team as applicable |

| Stakeholder | Objectives | Communication Methods and Tools | Timeframe / Frequency | Responsibility |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Culture | Reporting and communication in case archeological remains are found through construction of Project along with chance find procedures implemented. | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required)<br>2. Correspondence and Official Letters | Upon occurrence | EPC Contractor |
| Ministry of Transport | Submission of application and documentation required as well as discussion on Traffic and Transport Plan and coordination on requirements as required in "**Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.**". | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required)<br>2. Correspondence and Official Letters | Before commencement of any transportation activities | EPC Contractor |
| Ministry of Water Resources | Coordination to secure the water requirements of the Project. | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required)<br>2. Correspondence and Official Letters | Once before construction<br><br>Once before operation | EPC Contractor<br><br>Project Operator |
| State Unitary Enterprise | Coordination for list of private contractors approved for collection of solid waste / wastewater / hazardous waste from the site to relevant approved disposal facilities. | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required)<br>2. Correspondence and Official Letters | Once before construction<br><br>Once before operation | EPC Contractor<br><br>Project Operator |
| Health Facilities and Civil Defence | Present Project, location and emergency plans to take into account any relevant requirements. In addition, coordinate for any emergency response requirements related to incidents on site. | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required)<br>2. Correspondence and official letters | Once before commencement of construction<br><br>Once before commencement of operation | EPC Contractor<br><br>Project Operator |

| Stakeholder | Objectives | Communication Methods and Tools | Timeframe / Frequency | Responsibility |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Emergency Situations | Submit required documentation and obtain approval from Ministry of Emergency Situations as required based on consultations undertaken under "**Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.**". | 1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required)<br>2. Correspondence and official letters | Once before commencement of construction | EPC Contractor |
| Mirzo Ulugbek Fire Department | Devvelp a firefighting procedure for the site to ensure health and safety conditions are maintained. | Undertake a series of workshops and knowledge sharing sessions between Developer, EPC Contracotr, BESS supplier and the District and local fire station to develop a firefighting procedure for the site. This should be developed and in place prior to the start of construction. This is critical, given the different requirements of a battery fire, the risks associated. | Once before commencement of construction | Developr/ EPC contractor, BESS Supplier |
| **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)** | | | | |
| The Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds<br><br>RES group of Academy of Sciences<br><br>National Institute of Zoology under Academy of Science | 1. Announce key project milestones<br>2. Updates on community development initiatives<br>3. Announce stakeholder grievance mechanism<br>4. Updates on employment and procurement opportunities<br>5. Updates on stakeholder engagement activities<br>6. Obtain feedback | 1. Prepare leaflet and submit to these entities as applicable in relation to their specific focus with key E&S updates. Or this could be part of a general E&S update leaflet prepared. The leaflet must provide general project updates, including addressing any likely concerns from NGOs. | Semi-annual during construction (every 6 months)<br><br>Annually during operation | Developer Social Manager along with EPC Contractor CLO (as applicable) |

## 7. STAKEHOLDER GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

The Developer understands that management of grievances is a vital component of stakeholder engagement and an important aspect of risk management for a project. Grievances can be an indication of growing stakeholder concerns (real and perceived) and can escalate if not identified and resolved. Identifying and responding to grievances supports the development of positive relationships between projects, communities, and other stakeholders. Monitoring grievances will signal any recurrent issues or escalating conflicts and disputes.

The Developer will implement a Grievance Mechanism to ensure that it is responsive to any concerns and complaints particularly from affected stakeholders and communities. The Developer will accept all comments and complaints associated with the Project and individuals who submit their comments or grievances have the right to request that their name be kept confidential. At all times, complainants are also able to seek legal remedies in accordance with the laws and regulations of Uzbekistan.

The Developer will monitor the way in which grievances are being handled and ensure they are properly addressed within deadlines specified within the mechanism presented below. The Developer will also report regularly to the public on the grievance mechanism implementation, protecting the privacy of individuals.

The figure below presents a process diagram for the stakeholder grievance procedure which is further explained throughout the section below.

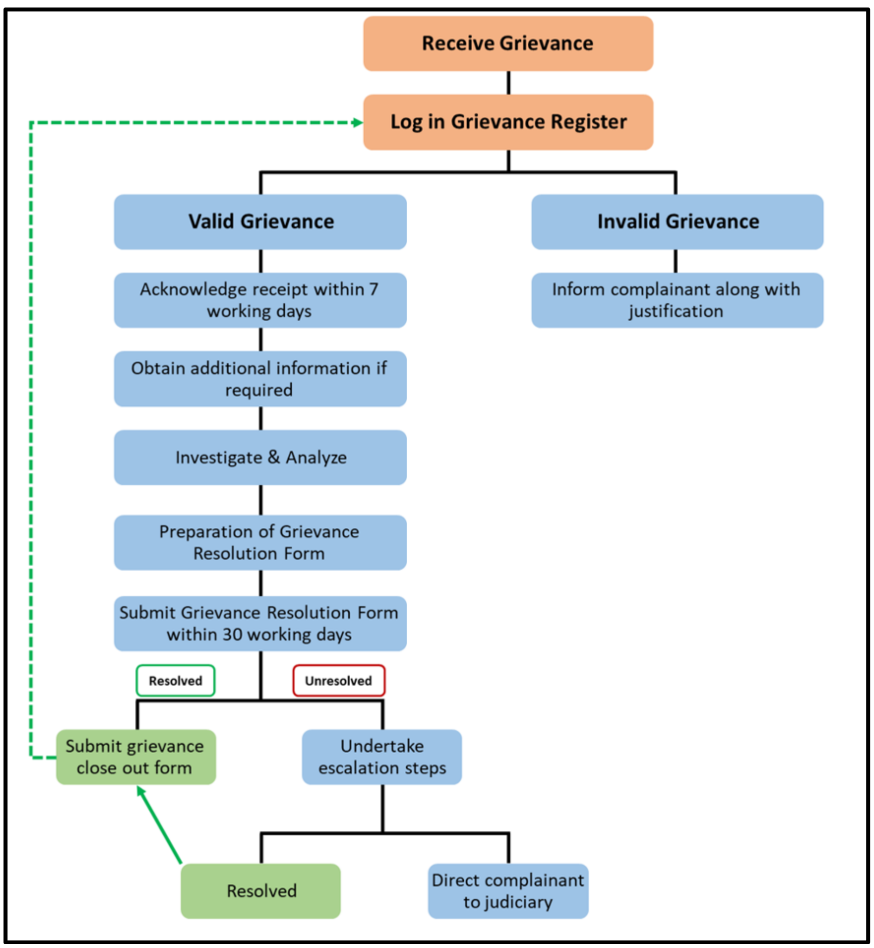


Figure 11: Grievance Mechanism Process Diagram

### 7.1.1 Stakeholder Grievance Procedure

- A Grievance Disclosure Sheet will be disclosed at key locations below. The Grievance Disclosure Sheet will inform the local communities on how and where to lodge a grievance in accordance with step 2 below.
  - Mirzo Ulug'bek District Khokimiyat
  - Beshkapa Mahalla
  - Paskiyuz Mahalla
  - Yuzrobot Mahalla
  - Geofizika Mahalla
  - Entrance Office of the Project
- Stakeholders willing to lodge a grievance should be able to use the following avenues:

*A. Grievance sheets (Annex 1) with grievance boxes will be made available at the following locations*:

**Project Office**

Location: 23, Taras Shevchenko Street, Tashkent
Telephone: +998 71 2090240

**Mirzo Ulug'bek District**

Location: 122 Mustakillik Street, Tashkent
Telephone: +998 71 2680707

**Beshkapa Mahalla**

Location: 10 A, Kaltatoy Street, Tashkent
Telephone: +998 71 2862309

**Paskiyuz Mahalla**

Location: 18, Marhabo Street, Tashkent
Telephone: +998 71 2068112

*B.* Direct Contact through the following:

***Social Manager***

Name: Kudratulla Inagamov
Telephone: +998981282005
Email: Kudratulla.Inagamov@ameauzbekistan.com

*C.* Developer website at the following link:

Link: www.ameapower.com

- All grievances (whether submitted through a grievance form, e-mail, telephone, etc.) will be recorded on a grievance log sheet by the Social Manager (Annex 2).
- This mechanism is applicable for any project related stakeholder group to raise a grievance. This includes but not limited to national / regional governmental entities, local communities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), media, research, and academic institutions, and others. This mechanism addresses grievances related to the following:
  - Any grievance related to Project activities to include but not limited to: (i) damage to public / private assets; (ii) degradation / deterioration of local infrastructure (e.g. roads); (iii) disturbance from noise, dust, traffic accidents, pollution, excessive speed of project's vehicles; (iv) degradation of the environment; (v) disturbance to land uses, (vi) other similar issues.
  - Any grievance against involved person/entity in the project to include but not limited to the Developer, EPC Contractor, subcontractors, and suppliers. This could include but not limited to: (i) negative behavior of construction workforce towards local communities; (ii) misconduct of security service providers; (iii) inappropriate behavior of workers in terms of managing employment and procurement opportunities, (iv) other similar issues.
- However, the following grievances will not be addressed in the case they are submitted. In this case, the applicant will be informed that the grievance will not be addressed along with a justification. This includes the following in particular:
  - Grievances that are not related to the Project or its activities
  - Grievances against an entity / person / worker that is/was not involved in the Project in any way directly or indirectly
  - A complaint that is currently being reviewed by the judiciary system and/or for which a final and definitive court ruling has been issued
- Grievance procedure starts with formal acknowledgment in accordance with the preferred method of communication specified by the complainant within 7 working days of submission. If the grievance is not well understood or if additional information is required, clarification will be sought from the complainant during this step.
- In coordination with the relevant personnel, the Social Manager will analyze the root cause of the grievance, investigate if the grievance is correct or not, and identify the required actions to be implemented to deal with the issue and identify the timeline for their completion (if applicable). For other more complex grievances, third parties could be involved in the investigation as applicable. Specific examples on this includes the following:
  - Grievances that entail safety concerns such as personal threats. Such grievances might require the involvement of local Police
  - Grievances that entail damage to property which have been verified might require an assessment of the damaged asset with the support of an external specialist in agreement with the complainant.

- The Social Manager will prepare a grievance resolution form (see Annex 3) which includes the nature of the grievance, date of its submission, actions implemented to resolve the grievance and date of implementation, or proposed actions to be implemented to resolve the grievance along with the timeline for their completion. Grievance resolution form will be submitted within (30) days of receiving the grievance.
- The grievance resolution form, including the necessary budget to resolve the grievance, must be approved and signed-off by the Project Manager.
- The outcomes of the grievance resolution form will be communicated to the complainant by the Social Manager in accordance with the preferred method of communication specified.
- In case the grievance resolution form identifies proposed actions to be implemented, the Social Manager will monitor and follow up to ensure that such actions have been implemented in accordance with the timeline proposed within the grievance resolution form. The Social Manager will contact the complainant once such actions are completed in accordance with the preferred method of communication specified.
- The Social Manager will ensure that the grievance forms, grievance log sheet, and grievance resolution form are always updated and maintained onsite.
- The grievance mechanism will be implemented promptly and at no cost and without retribution to the party that originated the issue or concern.
- The use of grievance mechanism shall not impede access to judiciary means.
- The grievance mechanism allows submission of anonymous complaints by community members.
- In the case the complainant does not accept the proposed resolution the following steps will be undertaken:
  - The Social Manager will raise the issue to the Project Manager for discussion and adoption of new resolutions for the grievance.
  - In the case the complainant does not accept the new resolution, the Project Manager will raise the issue to the E&S Department at headquarters for discussion and adoption of new resolutions for the grievance.
  - In the case the complainant does not accept the new resolution proposes, the compliant will be asked to access judiciary means to resolve his/her grievance.

### 7.1.2 Stakeholder Grievance Mechanism for Gender Based Violence, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

The requirements set below are considered applicable for handling grievances related to the following and in accordance with the requirements set within the "Good Practice Note Addressing Gender Based Violence in Investment Project Financing involving Major Civil Works" (2018, World Bank).

- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): defined violence against women and girls as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life

- Gender-based Violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by GBV across the globe.

- Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA): any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. Sexual abuse is further defined as "the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions." Women, girls, boys, and men can experience SEA. In the context of World Bank supported projects, project beneficiaries or members of project-affected communities may experience SEA.

For the above complaints, there are risks of stigmatization, rejection, and reprisals against survivors. This creates and reinforces a culture of silence so survivors may be reticent to approach the project directly. Therefore, the following steps should be considered for any grievances related to the above.

- The Social Manager will receive appropriate training from an authorized GBV Service Provider on how to collect GBV cases confidentially and empathetically (with no judgement). It is essential to respond appropriately to a survivor's complaint by respecting the survivor's choices. This means that the survivor's rights, needs, and wishes are prioritized in every decision related to the incident. The survivor who has the courage to come forward must always be treated with dignity and respect. Every effort should be made to protect the safety and wellbeing of the survivor and any action should always be taken with the survivor's informed consent. These steps serve to minimize the potential for re-traumatization and further violence against the survivor.

- Confidentiality is essential throughout the process. Otherwise, the survivor risks retaliation and a loss of security.

- No identifiable information on the survivor should be stored including in particular the grievance log register. In addition, if a grievance is submitted through a grievance form it will be kept confidential.

- Should the grievance be received by the Social Manager through a grievance form, telephone, email or other, the Social Manager should not ask for, or record, information on more than three aspects related to the incident and which include the following:

  - Nature of the complaint (what the complainant says in her/his own words without direct questioning)

  - If, to the best of their knowledge, the perpetrator was associated with the project; and,

  - If possible, the age and sex of the survivor.

- The Social Manager should assist the survivor by referring them to the GBV Services Provider for support immediately after receiving a complaint directly from a survivor. It is up to the survivor, and only the survivor, whether to take up the referral. The list of services providers are included below:

- Center for Support of Civil Initiatives
  Website: https://cisc-uzb.uz/
  Tel: +998 97 137 12 12

- Women's Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan
  Website: https://gov.uz/wcu
  Tel: +998 71 202 10 79

- The GBV Services Provider provides the necessary support to the survivor until it is no longer needed. Survivors may need access to police, justice, health, psychosocial, safe shelter and livelihood services to begin healing from their experience of violence. This will be arranged by the GBV Services Provider on their behalf in accordance with the survivor's wishes.
- The Social Manager will immediately notify the Project Manager (if the consent of the survivor is obtained). The survivor must give consent to data sharing and know what data will be shared, with whom and for what purposes.
- The Social Manager, Project Manager and GBV Services Provider will meet immediately to agree on a plan for resolution as well as the appropriate remedy for the perpetrator in accordance with the below. Note: The survivor must give the service provider representative consent to participate in the resolution mechanism on her/his behalf.
  - Reviews the case and collectively agree upon the appropriate actions to be taken and sanctions, if any.
  - Refers the case to the police as appropriate (see note below).
  - Assigns the appropriate 'Focal Point' to implement the actions—with the assistance of the GBV Services Provider.
  - Upon resolution, the Focal Point and GBV Services Provider advise that it has been resolved, who in turn advise the Social Manager.
  - The Social Manager notes the resolution and closes the cases and submits a close-out report to the Project Manager whom in turn reviews and approves the report.
- All entities involved above in case resolution, need to understand their legal obligations when it comes to reporting cases to the police. Reporting should be done in accordance with the law, especially in cases that require mandatory reporting of certain types of incidents, such as sexual abuse of a minor. When there is no legal obligation to report the case according to the local law, survivors hold the decision of whether to report cases for resolution and other service providers and reporting of a case to anyone can only be made with the consent of the survivor.
- If a case is first received by the GBV Services Provider, a report should be sent to the Social Manager to ensure it is recorded in the system. If any follow up is required by the Social Manager, it will be provided immediately with the consent of the survivor as applicable.
- If the survivor does not wish to place an official complaint through the grievance mechanism, the complaint is considered closed.
- If the alleged perpetrator is an employee of the Developer, EPC Contractor, or subcontractor, to protect the safety of the survivor, and the workplace in general, the worker, in consultation with the survivor—

and with the support of the GBV Services Provider—should assess the risk of ongoing abuse to the survivor. Reasonable adjustments should be made to the alleged perpetrator's work schedule and work environment—preferably by moving the perpetrator rather than the survivor—as deemed necessary.

## 8. CONTACT DETAILS

Throughout the Project, all stakeholders can contact the Developer throughout the contact details provided below.

**Contact Details for the Public**

**Social Manager**

Name: Kudratulla Inagamov
Telephone: +998981282005
Email: Kudratulla.Inagamov@ameauzbekistan.com

The Developer intends to provide all relevant information to the public (in English, Russian, and Uzbek) and which will include but is not limited to the following:

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) (this document)
- Non-Technical Summary (NTS)

The above will be provided in the following link below:

Link: www.ameapower.com

In addition, hard copies of the above will be available at the following locations. These documents will remain in the public domain for the duration of the Project and will be updated as appropriate:

**Project Office**

Location: 23, Taras Shevchenko, Tashkent
Telephone: +998 71 2090290

**Mirzo Ulug'bek District**

Location: 122 Mustakillik Street, Tashkent
Telephone: +998 71 2680707

**Beshkapa Mahalla**

Location: 10 A, Kaltatoy Street, Tashkent
Telephone: +998 71 2862309

**Paskiyuz Mahalla**

Location: 18, Marhabo Street, Tashkent
Telephone: +998 71 2068112

# 9. MONITORING AND REPORTING

## 9.1 Monitoring Requirements

The following monitoring requirements will be undertaken by the Social Manager with regards to the implementation of the SEP:

- Weekly inspections will be undertaken: (i) at stakeholder grievance boxes to collect any grievance forms, and (ii) review of grievance log updates.
- Monthly inspections will be undertaken to ensure: (i) SEP is disclosed in hard copy at required locations; (ii) summary advertisements of grievance mechanism are available at local community platforms.
- Submission of minutes of meetings as per SEP implementation.
- Quarterly inspections will be undertaken to: (i) ensure project update leaflets are available at local community platforms; (ii) stakeholder grievance boxes and forms are available at designated locations.
- Monitoring requirements are to be updated once available for implementation of the local employment and procurement procedure as well as the social responsibility program. This could include, for example submission of employment and procurement databases, proof of announcement advertisements, etc.

Monthly audits will be undertaken by the SPV, covering both HSE and social aspects. These audits will include an updated Grievance Log and will be submitted to AMEA Power as part of the monthly reporting requirements.

## 9.2 Reporting Requirements

The following reporting requirements will be prepared by the Social Manager with regards to the implementation of the SEP:

- On a monthly basis the stakeholder register form will be submitted as provided in Annex 4.
- On a monthly basis the stakeholder grievance form will be submitted as provided in Annex 2.
- The SEP will be updated and resubmitted on a semiannual basis during the construction phase and on an annual basis during the operation phase.
- The following Key Performance Indicators (KPI) will be reported monthly:

| No. | KPI | Measurement Action |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Number of stakeholder engagement activities undertaken | All communication to be reported in stakeholder register |
| 2 | Number of stakeholders involved | All communication to be reported in stakeholder register |
| 3 | Number of vulnerable groups engaged (including women groups) | All communication to be reported in stakeholder register |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | Number of requests for information via websites, CLOs and local information centers | All communication to be reported in stakeholder register |
| 5 | Number of stakeholder valid grievances submitted (and number rejected as outside of scope) | All grievances to be reported in grievance register |
| 6 | Number of resolved stakeholder grievances | All grievances to be reported in grievance register |
| 7 | Number of stakeholder grievances related to GBV | All grievances to be reported in grievance register |
| 8 | Average time for resolution of stakeholder complaints | All grievances to be reported in grievance register |
| 9 | Type of stakeholder grievances submitted | All grievances to be reported in grievance register |

## 10. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This section identifies the roles and responsibilities for the key personnel involved in the implementation of this plan.

***Project Manager – Developer***

- Ensure resources required (budgetary, human, and logistical resources) are available for the implementation of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Oversee the overall implementation of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including frequent interfacing with the Social Manager.
- Participate in implementation of the requirements of the stakeholder grievance mechanism as applicable to include signing grievance resolution forms.

***Social Manager – Developer***

- Update the SEP as required during the project's lifetime, to include planning, construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- Overall responsibility for implementing the requirements of the stakeholder engagement plan as identified
- Overall responsibility for implementing the requirements of the stakeholder grievance mechanism to include distribution of grievance disclosure sheets, collection of grievance forms, updating grievance log sheet, filling grievance resolution forms and grievance close-out forms.
- Coordinate with the EPC Contractor's team / oversee the implementation of the EPC Contractor, and its subcontractors of all requirements related to SEP.

***EPC Contractor / Project Operator***

EPC Contractor will be required to appoint a CLO that will have the following roles and responsibilities:

- Implementing the requirements of the stakeholder engagement plan as identified within the SEP as they primarily under EPC Contractor's responsibility. Those are mainly related to those requirements for the project that are mainly with governmental entities such as securing water requirements, assigning authorized waste collectors, etc.
- Support the Developer's Social Manager, as requested, in implementing SEP requirements that fall under their responsibility. This could include, but is not limited to, assisting with local community sessions, messaging updates, and the preparation and distribution of advertisements or flyers, etc.
- Submission of proof of completion of required engagements to the Project Developer's Social Manager.

Note: The EPC Contractor and its subcontractors(s) will have no role in the implementation of the stakeholder grievance mechanism. Any complaints received directly or indirectly by any EPC or subcontractor staff shall be redirected to the Developer's Social Manager.

# 11. ANNEXES

## 11.1 Annex 1 – Grievance Form

**PUBLIC GRIEVANCE FORM**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Reference No.** | |
| **Full Name:**<br>***(Anonymous submission is allowed)*** | |
| **Contact Information**<br><br>Please mark how you wish to be contacted and add contact details | ☐ **By Post:**<br>☐ **By Telephone:**<br>☐ **By E-mail:**<br>☐ **Other (please specify)** |
| **Description of Concern, Incident or Grievance** | **What is your concern/grievance/what happened? Where did it happen? Who did it happen to? What is the result of the problem?** |
| | |
| **Date of concern, incident, or grievance** | |
| ☐ **One-time incident/grievance (date)**<br>☐ **Happened more than once (how many times?)**<br>☐ **On-going (currently experiencing problem)** | |
| **What would you like to see happen to resolve the problem?** | |
| | |
| **Signature:** | **Date:** |

## 11.2 Annex 2 – Grievance Log Sheet

**Grievance Log Sheet**

| Ref No. | How Was grievance submitted | Date of Submission of Grievance | Name and Contact Information | Description of Grievance | Actions Taken to Resolve the Grievance | Date of Communication of Solution | Has grievance been resolved (Y/N) if not explain why |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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## 11.3 Annex 3 – Grievance Resolution Form

**GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION FORM**

| | |
|---|---|
| **How was grievance received** | |
| **Reference No:** | |
| | |
| **Description of Concern, Incident or Grievance:**<br><br>*What is the grievance/ What happened? Where did it happen? Who did it happen to? What is the result of the problem?* | |
| **Date of Grievance** | |
| | |
| **Has the Grievance been Resolved?** | Yes<br><br>No; ***If not provide a justification below*** |
| **Fill Out Either Section 1 OR Section 2 below** | |
| **Section 1** | |
| **Summary of Actions Undertaken to Resolve Grievance** | |
| **Date of Implementation** | |
| **Section 2** | |
| **Summary of Proposed Actions to be Implemented to Resolve Grievance** | |
| **Timeline for Implementation** | |

Social Manager:

Signature:

Date:

## 11.4 Annex 4 – Project Stakeholder Register Form

**Stakeholder Engagement Register**

| **Stakeholder** | | | **Details of Engagement** | **Communication Methods and Tools** | **Date of Engagement Activity** | **Responsibility** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| # | Name, position, group, etc. | Role | | | | |
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## 11.5 Annex 5– Summary of Past Stakeholder Engagement Activities

### 11.5.1 Targeted Consultations

**Local Consultant's Targeted Consultations**

Targeted consultations were undertaken with various stakeholder groups as highlighted below. During such targeted consultations, a handout was provided in advance in local language (mainly in Uzbek language) which entailed information on the Project, its location, components, overall ESIA process, key impacts anticipated during the various Project phases, contact details, and other.

- National governmental entities;
- Regional governmental entities;
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);
- Infrastructure utilities such as gas companies; and
- Academic and research institutions.

Table 6: Identified Groups of Stakeholders

| Entity | Date | Key Outcomes |
|---|---|---|
| **National Governmental Entities in Uzbekistan** | | |
| Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan | 26 May 2025 | ▪ The Ministry issued a non-objection letter (ref. 04-12-25-3084) regarding the implementation of the Project.<br>▪ The Ministry expressed readiness to cooperate in the future, if needed, in accordance with established procedures.<br>▪ No issues of concern or requirements were provided. |
| Cadastral Agency under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan | 19 June 2025 | ▪ The Project footprint is under governmental ownership and specifically under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Energy. There are no private landowners in the Project footprint.<br>▪ There are also no formal existing or planned activities related to private or communal land-use practices, oil and gas exploration, mining, protected areas, agriculture, or grazing within the Project area.<br>▪ It was indicated that a total of 11 private landowners were previously identified within the Project wider area in general, dating back to 2018. Subsequently, an official Khokimiyat decision was issued to cancel allocation of this land for individual housing construction.<br>Out of these 11 land users, two (2) are located within the Project footprint area (as per remnants noted within the site). It was confirmed that in 2018 these two individuals were compensated and relocated by the government in accordance with local legislation and requirements, and alternative plots were provided to them in other areas of Qibray District, Tashkent Region.<br>▪ There have been no previous land disputes or conflicts for the Project area. |

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| | | ▪ In addition, within the surrounding areas to the Project site, a total of 2.0 hectares of land was designated for agricultural use.<br>▪ There are no additional concerns, requirements, or recommendations to be considered by the Directorate. |
| Ministry of Health (Sanitary-epidemiological welfare and public health Committee under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan) | 20 May 2025 | ▪ The Committee provided the following requirements based on Sanitary Rules, Norms, and Hygiene Standards (SanPiN) No. 0236-07 "On Ensuring the Safety of the Population Living Near High-Voltage Power Transmission Lines", the sanitary protection zone must be determined based on the voltage level of the transmission line.<br>- The electric field intensity must not exceed 1.0 kV/m in residential areas.<br>- The electric field intensity inside residential buildings and facilities must not exceed 0.5 kV/m.<br>- The magnetic field intensity in residential areas must not exceed 80 A/m (equivalent to 100 µT).<br>▪ Sanitary zones (i.e. protection zones) for underground cables is regulated by Cabinet of Minister resolution # 1050 Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on approval of the Rules for the protection of electric grid facilities which requires:<br>- Along underground cable power transmission lines - in the form of part of the surface of a plot of land, a subsoil section located underneath it (to a depth corresponding to the depth of laying cable power transmission lines), limited by parallel vertical planes located on both sides of the power transmission line from the outer cables at a distance of 1 meter, and when cable lines pass under sidewalks in cities - 0.6 meters towards buildings and structures and 1 meter towards the roadway of the street;<br>▪ There are no specific protection zone requirements were provided for the BESS, as this is the first project of its kind being developed in Tashkent.<br>▪ No additional concerns or issues were raised by the Committee. |
| Ministry of Labor (Labor Department in District Khokomiyat) | 13 June 2025 | ▪ The proposed ESIA methodology was reviewed and considered clear. The authority expressed satisfaction that labor-related risks are being addressed. They emphasized that monitoring workers' health throughout the work process is a positive and commendable approach.<br>▪ No additional concerns or issues were raised by the Authority.<br>▪ No additional requirements or recommendations were provided. |
| The Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds | 16 May 2025 | ▪ The area is currently used informally for small livestock grazing (sheep and goats).<br>▪ The Project site and its surrounding areas are not located within or near any Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs).<br>▪ The proposed biodiversity baseline methodology was reviewed and is considered to follow international best practice.<br>▪ One recommendation was made: to consider the risk of bird collisions with glass surfaces (e.g., illuminated windows or glass reflecting vegetation). A relevant awareness campaign called "Help Birds Not to Break into Glass" |

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| | | has previously been implemented by the OOP. Note: Follow up discussion will be undertaken to explain that the Project does not include any glass surfaces or illuminated windows.<br>▪ It was noted that the Project site is not inhabited by rare or endangered species. The vertebrate fauna present consists of common species. Due to significant anthropogenic transformation and the proximity of the small economic zone, the site cannot be considered a natural habitat. As such, the construction of the BESS facility is not expected to result in any key impacts on biodiversity. |
| Ministry of Transport | 20 May 2025 | ▪ An official response letter was received from the Committee for Motor Roads Under the Ministry of Transport outlining the following requirements:<br>- Pursuant to Presidential Decree No. PF-4545 of 09 December 2019 “On Measures to Further Improve the Management System of the Road Sector, “ it is deemed advisable that one employee visit the site of the planned construction and installation works for the BESS Project in Mirzo-Ulug’bek District, Tashkent City, in order to conduct an on-site study and provide conclusions and recommendations for transport requirements of the project.<br>- Furthermore, the Committee specified that in order to receive the official technical specifications for carrying out the works in the specified area, the Developer must formally apply to the Main Department of Motor Roads of Tashkent Region by submitting the following four (4) required documents:<br>1. A formal request letter from the Developer, addressed to the Head of the Main Department of Motor Roads.<br>2. A copy of the executing LLC’s certificate of registration.<br>3. A schematic drawing of the work site.<br>4. A reference letter from the District Road Operation Enterprise.<br>▪ Apart from the above, they did not provide any input or requirements concerning the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process.<br>▪ No traffic or transport assessment has been conducted in the area, including for the transportation of large equipment or machinery.<br>▪ Apart from the above, there are no specific requirements or considerations related to the condition or type of roads within the Project area. |
| Khokimiyat of Mirzo Ulugbek District | 17 March 2025 | ▪ The Project site is located in the Beshkapa neighborhood of the Mirzo Ulugbek District. The closest neighboring communities include Pastkiyuz, Yuzrabot, and Geofizika which are to be considered as local communities.<br>▪ Local authorities view the Project as a valuable development opportunity and expressed interest in creating temporary employment for unemployed youth from surrounding neighborhoods during the construction phase. |

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| | | ▪ It was recommended that Project updates and announcements be communicated through the Mirzo Ulugbek District Neighborhood Association. The Association will liaise with neighborhood representatives to ensure effective information dissemination to local elders, community activists, and street leaders.<br>▪ Neighborhood representatives may also support community participation in public consultation activities, as well as promote employment and procurement opportunities during construction.<br>▪ To effectively engage women, it was suggested that announcements be shared during existing community gatherings such as the "Wise Women" and "Grandmothers' School" meetings.<br>▪ The Mirzo Ulugbek District Cadastre Agency was identified as the appropriate source for information on formal and informal land use within the Project site.<br>▪ No additional concerns, requirements, or conditions were raised. The Project was welcomed with appreciation and support. |
| Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan | 09 June 2025 | ▪ The authority expressed strong support for the Project and welcomed it positively.<br>▪ The implementation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) activities is considered a positive consideration.<br>▪ The opportunity for local youth to be temporarily employed during the Project's construction phase is highly welcomed as a valuable initiative for young people in the area.<br>▪ To ensure youth have continuous access to project information, the following channels and methods are recommended:<br>- Regular updates on Telegram channel.<br>- Dissemination through cooperation with the local Youth Union and Youth Affairs Agency.<br>- Posting announcements at educational institutions such as colleges.<br>- Sharing information via local government offices and community centers.<br>▪ To promote youth participation in employment and procurement opportunities and scoping and disclosure sessions, it is recommended to:<br>- Announce sessions in advance via social media, official websites, and public locations.<br>- Advertise via local job markets and employment centers.<br>- Conduct outreach through universities and colleges.<br>- Send invitations through youth leaders and organizations.<br>▪ Recommended coordination partners include: |

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| | | - Youth affairs Agency and its local representatives;<br>- Educational institutions and graduate centers;<br>- Local government youth departments and district employment offices;<br>- Youth-led environmental and social activist groups. |
| State Committee of Family and Women (Women Representative under the Khokimiyat District) | 09 June 2025 | ▪ The Committee expressed satisfaction with the Project location and welcomed its implementation.<br>▪ The Committee acknowledges the ESIA requirements and appreciates that the Project is being developed in accordance with international environmental standards.<br>▪ The Committee indicated their willingness to support efforts in identifying local youth females who may benefit from temporary or permanent employment opportunities related to the Project.<br>▪ To ensure that women's groups have ongoing access to Project information, the following communication channels were recommended:<br>- Regular updates on the official website and Telegram channel<br>- Cooperation with the local Youth Union and Youth Affairs Agency<br>- Announcements at educational institutions such as schools and colleges<br>- Information shared via local government and community centers<br>▪ To encourage women's participation in employment and procurement opportunities and scoping and disclosure sessions:<br>- Announce sessions in advance via social media, official websites, and public venues<br>- Conduct outreach through universities and colleges<br>- Send invitations via youth leaders<br>▪ Recommended coordination partners include:<br>- Youth affairs Agency and its local representatives;<br>- Educational institutions and graduate centers;<br>- Local government youth departments and district employment offices;<br>- Youth-led environmental and social activist groups.<br>▪ The Committee emphasized the importance of raising public environmental awareness, involving local youth in environmental monitoring, and conducting regular outreach to ensure public safety. |

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| National Center of Archaeology of the Republic of Uzbekistan | 27 May 2025 | ▪ The authority raised no objection to the Project's proposed location, noting that its distance from the city center and nearby historical monuments is acceptable.<br>▪ No previous archaeological excavations have been conducted within the Project area. However, early 20th-century surveys referred to the area as the "Nikiforov Lands," where burial mounds were recorded.<br>▪ Several archaeological sites listed in the National Register of Tangible Cultural Heritage lie within a 5 km radius of the Project area. These include Sho'rtepa, Sadoqattepa, Oltintepa, Tovkenttepa, To'qaytepa, Qoraboshtepa, and Buzgantepa. Coordinates of these sites were provided in the official correspondence.<br>▪ There are currently no ongoing archaeological or cultural surveys in or near the Project area.<br>▪ A site-specific archaeological assessment is required prior to any ground disturbance. The National Center of Archaeology has confirmed its readiness to undertake the necessary investigations and prepare a scientific report.<br>▪ There are no additional concerns or requirements noted by the authority.<br>▪ A non-objection letter on project development is to be obtained from the relevant authority after completion of the survey. |
| Ministry of Emergency Situations | 27 May 2025 | ▪ As no similar BESS project has been implemented in Uzbekistan, the authority was unable to provide information on the likelihood of natural, technogenic, social, biological, or environmental emergency situations.<br>▪ Regulatory requirements related to emergency preparedness and coordination with competent authorities (e.g., firefighting, rescue, police, medical) will be shared after additional Project details are received.<br>▪ There are no specific formal regulations on protection zone requirements for the BESS, as this is the first project of its kind being developed in Tashkent. A general recommendation was to consider 50-meter buffer from buildings, houses, and other structures.<br>▪ Prior to implementation, the following documents must be submitted to the Ministry of Emergency Situations:<br>- General project information<br>- Detailed description of BESS operations<br>- Proof that BESS poses no fire risks or hazardous emissions (national/international documentation)<br>- Land allocation documents<br>▪ Any additional issues of concern will be provided officially upon review of the submitted documents.<br>▪ There are currently no additional requirements. |

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| Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology | 23 May 2025 | ▪ No additional requirements were noted regarding the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).<br>▪ There are no ongoing or planned mining or extraction activities within the Project area.<br>▪ No gas or mining infrastructure was reported in the area.<br>▪ The Project area is situated within an urban setting and does not contain any strategically important mineral or water resource sites, nor is it considered geotechnically unsuitable for construction.<br>▪ No additional concerns or requirements were raised regarding project implementation.<br>▪ The Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology has issued a letter of no objection to the Project (Ref. No. 03-1129, dated May 21, 2025) |
| Ministry of Digital Technologies | 09 June 2025 | ▪ The Ministry of Digital Technologies confirmed there are no existing facilities belonging to the Ministry within the defined project boundaries.<br>▪ There are currently no telecommunication facilities (equipment, structures, or cable lines) in the BESS project area. Therefore, the Ministry has no objection to the Project, provided it complies with all applicable technical standards, norms, and regulations of Uzbekistan.<br>▪ No additional concerns or requirements were raised regarding project implementation.<br>▪ A letter of non-objection was previously issued by the Ministry in response to Letter No. BESS_13_2025 (dated March 17, 2025), via their response No. 28-8/3925 (dated May 10, 2025). |
| Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change | 26 June 2025 | ▪ The State Environmental Expertise Center responded to the inquiry regarding the proposed 300 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project, which included questions on the proposed ESIA methodology, potential impacts, setback requirements, and environmental safeguards.<br>▪ In their response, the Center clarified that all proposed economic activities must comply with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Environmental Expertise” and Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 541 of 7 September 2020 “On Further Improvement of the Environmental Impact Assessment Mechanism.”<br>▪ They indicated that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) materials must be submitted through the national portal https://eco-service.uz to initiate the formal State environmental expertise review.<br>▪ The Center also emphasized that, according to Article 25 of the Law “On Nature Protection,” no project may proceed without a positive conclusion from the State Environmental Expertise.<br>▪ No additional concerns or requirements were raised regarding Project implementation. |
| **Academic and Research Institutions** | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Zoology Institute Academy of Science | 11 June 2025 | ▪ The Institute issued a non-objection letter (ref. 01-09/344) regarding the implementation of the Project in Mirzo-Ulug'bek District, Tashkent City.<br>▪ They indicated no concerns or specific requirements to be considered and methodology for ESIA was considered sufficient.<br>▪ The Institute expressed readiness to cooperate if scientific research on wildlife and conservation is required during Project implementation. |

**Developer's E&S Teams' Consultations**

The Developer's E&S Team undertook a series of consultation activities as part of a scoping visit from March 17, 2025 to March 19, 2025.

Three (3) key stakeholders were consulted which are detailed as follows:

- Stakeholder meeting #1: Mirzo Ulugbek District Khokimiyat
- Stakeholder meeting #2: Project Site Visit
- Stakeholder meeting #3: Mirzo Ulug'bek tumani UZSUVTAMINOT AJ

Table 7: Stakeholder Engagement Key Outcomes

| Stakeholder | Date | Representatives | Key Outcomes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mirzo Ulugbek District Khokimiyat | 17 March 2025 | ▪ **Husainov Sarvarbek**, Deputy Mayor of Mirzo Ulug'bek District for Investments, Industry, and Trade<br>▪ **Ziyayev Nodirjon**, First Deputy Head of the Mirzo Ulug'bek District Emergency Management Department<br>▪ **Xolboyev Boburjon**, Leading Specialist at the Cadastre and Land Relations Department of the Ministry of Energy.<br>▪ **Sobirov Otabek**, Senior Specialist at the Ministry of Energy.<br>▪ **Rasulov Xikmatulla**, Doctor | ▪ AMEA Power presented the 300 MWh BESS Project to be developed in Mirzo Ulug'bek District, highlighting its role in Uzbekistan's renewable energy goals and transition to a green economy.<br>▪ Indicated that environmental and social assessments will be conducted in line with national laws and GIIP, including ESIA, SEP, NTS, and stakeholder consultations.<br>▪ The Project supports national priorities under the "Uzbekistan–2030" Strategy and 2025's designation as the "Year of Environmental Protection and Green Economy."<br>▪ Deputy Mayor Sarvarbek expressed full support for the Project, emphasizing its alignment with national environmental and energy objectives.<br>▪ The Deputy Mayor also highlighted that the Mirzo Ulug'bek District has 400,000 residents, 70 mahallas, and numerous foreign investment projects, and stated that cross-sector coordination is essential.<br>▪ Local authorities expressed support for the Project and emphasized coordination with district stakeholders, including mahallas, service agencies, and infrastructure departments.<br>▪ Deputy Mayor noted that the Project area borders the Small Industrial Zone (west of the Project site). |

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| | | at the Mirzo Ulug'bek District Sanitary and Epidemiological Center<br>▪ **Ergashev Islom**, Assistant Engineer<br>▪ **Po'latov Nig'mat**, Head of the Mirzo Ulug'bek District Water Supply Department.<br>▪ **Mirzamatov Qobil**, Regional Engineer at the Mirzo Ulug'bek District Water Supply Department<br>▪ **Ruziyev Akmal O'**,Doctor at the Mirzo Ulug'bek District Sanitary and Epidemiological Center<br>▪ **Turopov Shuhrat**, Engineer at the Mirzo Ulug'bek District Power Grid<br>▪ **Saitov Anvar**, Deputy Head of the Mirzo Ulug'bek District Environmental Management Department<br>▪ **Boysunov Abduvosid**, Employee of the Mirzo Ulug'bek District Cadastre Agency | ▪ Potential risks were acknowledged by AMEA Power, with the assurance that they would be addressed in accordance with local regulations and international E&S requirements.<br>▪ A brief discussion was held on water resource availability, with follow-up needed at the site level.<br>▪ The Deputy Mayor expressed interest in AMEA Power's experience supporting public health facilities with green energy.<br>▪ AMEA Power confirmed its sustainability policy and compliance with both national and international requirements, noting the Project's alignment with lender expectations.<br>▪ Parties agreed to continue discussions on-site, and the Deputy Mayor invited the team for a detailed Project area visit. |
| BESS Project Site (field visit) | 17 March 2025 | ▪ **Husainov Sarvarbek**, Deputy Mayor of Mirzo Ulugbek District for Investments, Industry, and Trade<br>▪ **Nurmatov Bobur**, | ▪ Dr. Akmal Ruziyev (District Sanitary-Epidemiological Center) confirmed that no sanitary-epidemiological restrictions exist for BESS Project site. He noted that an official letter should be submitted to obtain written confirmation.<br>▪ A water stream is located along the edge of the project area; no underground water pipelines are present on- |

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| | | Head of the Public-Private Partnership Development Department of the Ministry of Energy<br>▪ **Xolboyev Boburjon**, Leading Specialist at the Cadastre and Land Relations Department of the Ministry of Energy<br>▪ **Mirzamatov Qobil**, Regional Engineer at the Mirzo Ulugbek District Water Supply Department<br>▪ **Ruziyev Akmal**, Doctor at the Mirzo Ulugbek District Sanitary and Epidemiological Center<br>▪ **Boysunov Abduvosid**, Employee of the Mirzo Ulugbek District Cadastre Agency<br>▪ Qorayev Baxtiyor, Herder | site. The stream is used for irrigation purposes, not for drinking. A technical response will be provided upon official request.<br>▪ Mr. Abduvosid Boysunov (Cadastre Agency) indicated that the land is currently uninhabited and used for informal livestock grazing.<br>▪ Mr. Baxtiyor Qorayev, a local herder, acknowledged that he uses the site for grazing sheep. He requested that construction begin after spring to allow time to relocate grazing. Overall support for the Project was expressed, along with a welcome for any local benefits it may bring. |
| Mirzo Ulug'bek tumani UZSUVTAMINOT AJ | 18 March 2025 | ▪ **Olga Murashkina**, Chief Specialist of the Department of Drinking and Wastewater Quality Control and Environmental Impact Assessment of Facilities<br>▪ **Talipov Botir**, Chief Specialist of the Department for Coordination and Monitoring of Construction Project Implementation<br>▪ **Mokhirabonu** | ▪ Mirzo Ulug'bek tumani UZSUVTAMINOT AJ is a branch of the national drinking water supply company. It is responsible for supplying drinking water to households and businesses in the district, operating and maintaining the sewage and wastewater systems and customer service, billing, and maintenance of the water network in the area.<br>▪ The aim of the meeting was to discuss water source-related issues for the construction and operation phases of the BESS project.<br>▪ Questions were raised about availability, quality, and sources of water—including tap water, underground water, wastewater, and the nearby channel.<br>▪ Olga Murasheva advised directing inquiries on tap water and sewerage to TashUzSuvtaminoti, and underground water to the Ministry of Geology. Wastewater information can be obtained from |

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| | | **Rustambekova**, Chief Specialist of the Department of Foreign Investment Projects Formation and Funding | Tashkent Shahar Suvtaminoti.<br>▪ Olga Murasheva noted that a new Water Code will be issued within a month, which will provide updated guidance on buffer zones from water bodies. SanPin 0350 was also mentioned as applicable (which is related to ambient air protection) as well as wastewater standards. |


Figure 12: Stakeholder Engagement Consultations with District Khokimiyat


**Figure 13: Project Site Visit**


**Figure 14: Stakeholder Engagement Consultation with Mirzo Ulug'bek Tumani UZSUVTAMINOT AJ**

### 11.5.2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

**Local Communities**

Four (4) key FGDs were undertaken with the local communities that are relevant to the Project as identified within "Section Local Communities" earlier and which include:

- Session #1: Beshkapa Mahalla
- Session #2: Geofizika Mahalla
- Session #3: Yuzrabot Mahalla
- Session #4: Pastkiyuz Mahallah

All sessions were open invitation sessions that were announced to local communities through Telegram Channels of each Mahalla at least five (5) days in advance of the session.

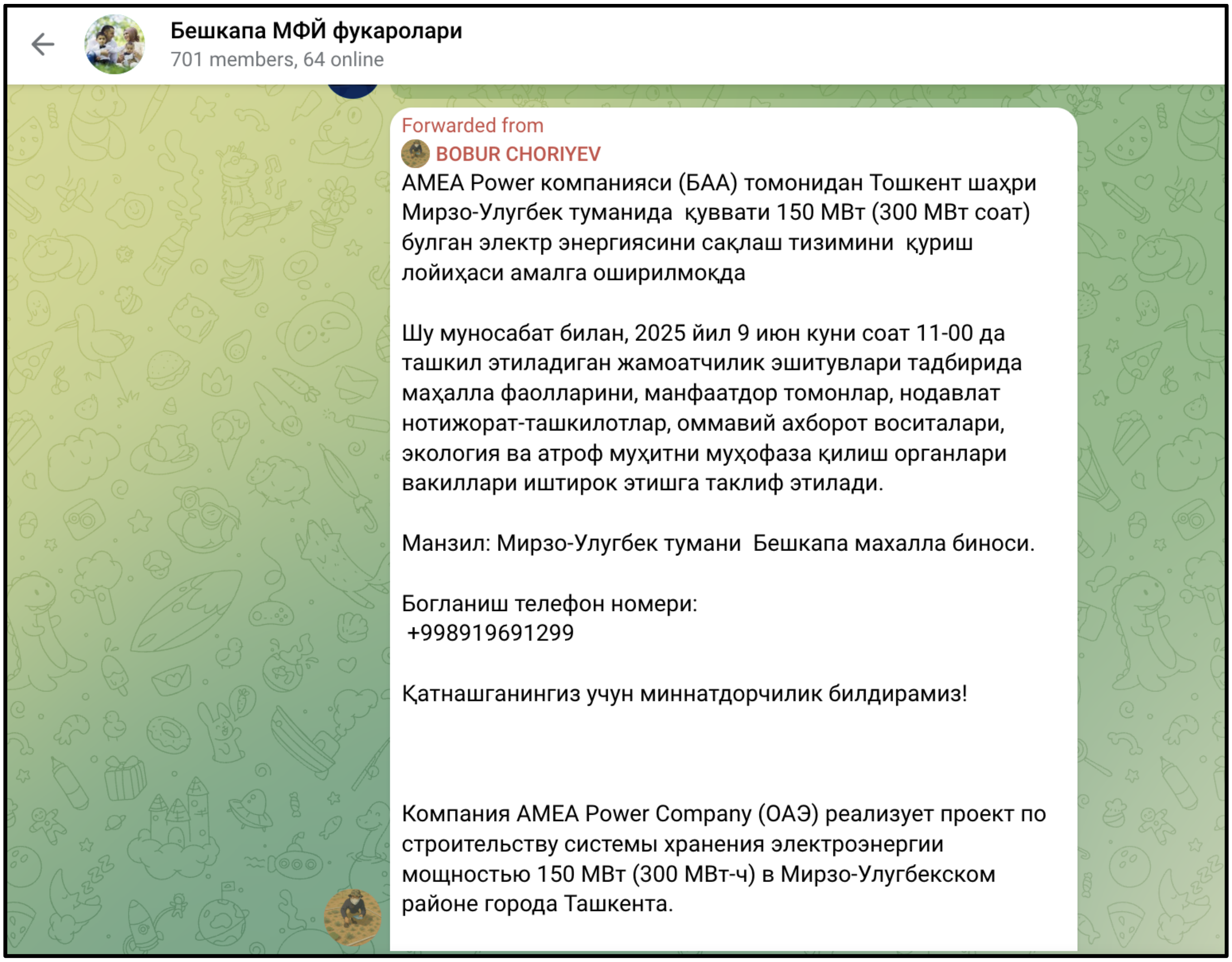


**Figure 15: Sample FGD Announcement on Telegram Channel**

In addition, key invitations were sent to the following groups in particular by the Mahalla:

- Mahalla Committee including Mahalla Chair (for details on setup of the Mahallas please refer to "Section Administrative Setup and Project Location" earlier)
- Women that include women group representatives.
- Educational workforce (teachers in schools and school principals).
- Herders in the Project Area.

In addition to the above, a fifth (5) session was held with stakeholders from the Small Industrial Zone (SIZ) located south of the Project area. To facilitate this, a meeting was held with the Deputy Head of Investment at the Khokimiyat, who introduced the 'E&S Team' to the Head of the Industrial Zone Administration. An initial consultation was conducted with the Head of Administration to explain the purpose of the engagement and the Project and request support in organizing a consultation session with the key industrial and commercial entities surrounding the area. As a result, the Administration extended invitations to relevant entities and a FGD was conducted.

At the beginning of each of the Five (5) sessions, a presentation on the Project was first provided along with a handout on the following key topics.

- Description of the Project location along with maps;
- Description of key Project components along with figures and illustrations;
- Description of the key activities anticipated in each key phase of the Project (planning, construction and operation)
- Description of ESIA study and its key components and requirements;
- Explanation of key anticipated E&S impact under each phase of the Project; and
- Explanation of the methodology and scope of work that will be undertaken for the ESIA.

Upon completion of the above informative session, each group was separated for general discussions as well as discussion on any comments or key issues of concern on the overall Project and/or the ESIA process in particular. Key discussions were undertaken in relation to the following key aspects:

- Economic activities and livelihood strategies
- Land use activities
- Community quality of life
- Perceptions towards the Project
- Community structure (ethnic and tribal groups, religion, ethnic minorities, etc.)
- Cultural and Heritage sites

The presentation and handouts were provided in Uzbek language, while the delivery of the presentation was in Uzbek and Russian language depending on the audience.

The table below presents an overall summary of the outcomes of these FGD for each community.

**Table 8: Key Outcomes of FGDs**

| Community | Date | Key Outcomes |
|---|---|---|
| Beshkapa Mahalla | June 2025 | ▪ The population of the Mahalla is 1,455.<br>▪ Main sources of livelihood include formal, waged employment—mainly businesspeople, government workers, and teachers—as well as unemployed individuals and pensioners. Many households practice agriculture, including both subsistence (vegetables and fruits) and commercial farming (tomatoes, cucumbers, gardening). Nearly all families raise livestock such as sheep, cows, goats, and chickens.<br>▪ The community is primarily Uzbek, with a smaller Russian population.<br>▪ The main religions practiced are Islam and Christianity.<br>▪ There are several historical and cultural heritage monuments within a 5 km radius of the Project Area, including Shurtepa, Sadokattepa, Altintepa, Tavkenttepa, Tukaytepa, Koraboshtepa, and Buzgantepa but none within Project site.<br>▪ Some community members use the land within the Project Area for seasonal livestock grazing.<br>▪ The land was previously considered for housing development, but this plan was |

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| | | cancelled. It has also been used as a local waste dumping area.<br>▪ No current land disputes were reported, and conflict resolution related to land issues is managed through the Cadastre Department.<br>▪ The area within the Project site is also used as an access road to the nearby electrical substation.<br>▪ The community expressed that the most effective support for local development would be the creation of employment opportunities, particularly for young people.<br>▪ The community is located in close proximity to the Presidential Palace, which imposes higher security measures. As such, any engagement with residents requires prior coordination with the district Khokimiyat and Mahalla leadership.<br>▪ Key expected benefits include more stable electricity supply, particularly during the summer months when power cuts are frequent.<br>▪ Community members raised interest in possible educational or vocational training programs to prepare unemployed youth for future job opportunities in renewable energy or battery storage projects.<br>▪ Some questions were raised about the safety of the battery storage system, particularly regarding emissions. It was clarified during the meeting that this technology does not produce air emissions.<br>▪ Key methods for communication with local communities for engagement, providing updates, etc., are through: (i) Telegram channels (both the Mahalla's and Mirzo Ulugbek Khokimiyat's official channels); (ii) news and governmental websites; (iii) the Mahalla Community Organization; and (iv) the Women's Organizations.<br>▪ Women are willing and want to be involved in job opportunities for the Project.<br>▪ The community is generally supportive of the Project, mainly due to the potential for employment opportunities and local development.<br>▪ Employment opportunities are the key expectations from this Project development. Note: through the consultation it was explained in detail that opportunities during the construction phase will be temporary and opportunities during operation are considered limited due to the nature of the Project. |
| Pastkiyuz Mahalla | June 2025 | ▪ The population of Pastkiyuz Mahalla is 2,030.<br>▪ Main sources of livelihood include formal, waged employment, mainly among businesspeople, government workers, and unemployed individuals, including pensioners. Many households practice subsistence agriculture growing vegetables and fruits (e.g., tomatoes, cucumbers) and nearly all families rear livestock such as sheep, cows, goats, and chickens. There is no pastoralism or herding in the community.<br>▪ The community is primarily Uzbek, with Kazakh and Russian minorities.<br>▪ Islam is the main religion practiced in the community.<br>▪ Several historical and cultural heritage monuments exist within a 5 km radius of the Project Area, including Shurtepa, Sadokattepa, Altintepa, Tavkenttepa, Tukaytepa, Koraboshtepa, and Buzgantepa but none within the Project site.<br>▪ Community members do not use the land within the Project Area.<br>▪ No ongoing land disputes were reported, and conflict resolution is managed through the Cadastre Department.<br>▪ The main developmental challenge is youth unemployment, largely due to a |

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| | | mismatch between university graduates' specializations and the skills demanded by the job market.<br>▪ The best way to support the community's future development is through employment opportunities for local residents, especially youth.<br>▪ The community is generally supportive of the Project, particularly valuing the potential employment opportunities.<br>▪ Questions were raised about noise and dust impacts during construction and operation, with community members requesting monitoring according to norms and working hours to reduce these impacts.<br>▪ Consultations were attended by many women, most of whom are unemployed, expressing interest in job opportunities for themselves and their children.<br>▪ The community expressed interest in advanced training courses to better align youth skills with job market demands.<br>▪ Women showed strong willingness to participate in employment opportunities related to the Project.<br>▪ Key methods for communication with local communities for engagement, providing updates, etc., are through: (i) Telegram channels (both the Mahalla's and Mirzo Ulugbek Khokimiyat's official channels); (ii) news and governmental websites; (iii) the Mahalla Community Organization; and (iv) the Women's Organizations. |
| Yuzrabot Mahalla | June 2025 | ▪ The population of Yuzrabot Mahalla is approximately 5,016 individuals.<br>▪ The main sources of livelihood are formal, waged employment, including businesspeople, government workers, and pensioners. No significant engagement in agriculture, livestock rearing, entrepreneurship, or other informal livelihood strategies were reported.<br>▪ The community is predominantly Muslim.<br>▪ Cultural and heritage sites located near the Mahalla include the "Dovud Ota" cemetery and an ongoing archaeological site in Tuprakkala, which contains remains of a castle along the historical Great Silk Road. None within the Project site.<br>▪ Community members do not use the land within the Project Area, and there are no land disputes reported. Conflict resolution is handled by the Cadastre Department.<br>▪ The main developmental challenge is youth unemployment, prompting outward migration. There is a noted mismatch between the specializations of university graduates and the skills needed in the local labor market.<br>▪ The community is generally supportive of the Project, particularly for its employment potential and contribution to sustainable development.<br>▪ No concerns were raised about negative impacts during construction.<br>▪ Community members raised concerns about potential explosion risks associated with battery storage equipment. They referenced several past incidents in Tashkent, including one involving a warehouse. The community requested detailed information on whether similar risks could occur with the Project, and what specific mitigation and prevention measures will be in place to avoid such incidents.<br>▪ Women expressed strong interest in employment opportunities and requested training initiatives for both themselves and their children.<br>▪ Key methods for communication with the local community include: (i) Telegram channels (both the Mahalla's and Mirzo Ulugbek Khokimiyat's official channels); (ii) |

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| | | news and government websites; and (iii) the Mahalla Community Organization.<br>▪ Community members also expressed interest in receiving updates through engagement meetings that explain the timeline, risk mitigation measures, and employment processes.<br>▪ Employment opportunities are the key expectations from this Project development. Note: through the consultation it was explained in detail that opportunities during the construction phase will be temporary and opportunities during operation are considered limited due to the nature of the Project. |
| Geofizika Mahalla | June 2025 | ▪ The population of Geofizika Mahalla is 2,647, consisting of both Uzbek and Russian residents.<br>▪ Main sources of livelihood include formal, waged employment such as government workers and businesspeople, as well as unemployed individuals and pensioners.<br>▪ The main religion practiced is Islam.<br>▪ There are several historical and cultural heritage monuments within a 5 km radius of the Project Area, including Shurtepa, Sadokattepa, Altintepa, Tavkenttepa, Tukaytepa, Koraboshtepa, and Buzgantepa. None within the project site.<br>▪ No community members use the land within the Project Area. There have been no changes in land use over the past five years.<br>▪ No current land disputes were reported, and conflict resolution related to land issues is managed through the Cadastre Department.<br>▪ Key developmental challenges include high unemployment among youth, prompting outward migration in search of jobs. A key barrier identified is the mismatch between the education and specialization of young people and the demands of the labor market.<br>▪ The community is generally supportive of the BESS Project, particularly because it is seen as a foreign investment initiative that will benefit the country economically.<br>▪ Key expectations from the Project include the creation of local job opportunities. During consultations, it was explained that employment during the construction phase will be temporary and that limited opportunities are expected during operation due to the nature of the Project.<br>▪ Community members raised questions about the safety of the battery storage system, especially regarding the risk of explosion. They referenced past incidents in Tashkent involving storage warehouses. The community requested detailed information about whether such risks could arise from the Project and what mitigation and prevention measures will be implemented to ensure safety.<br>▪ Women are willing and want to be involved in job opportunities for the Project.<br>▪ Employment opportunities are the key expectations from this Project development. Note: through the consultation it was explained in detail that opportunities during the construction phase will be temporary and opportunities during operation are considered limited due to the nature of the Project.<br>▪ Key methods for communication with local communities for engagement and updates include: (i) Telegram channels (both the Mahalla's and Mirzo Ulugbek Khokimiyat's official channels); and (ii) word-of-mouth through the Mahalla Community Organization. |
| Herders on the Project | June 2025 | ▪ Approximately 10 herders informally use the Project site seasonally for grazing |

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| Site | | livestock (mainly cows, sheep, chickens, and a few horses).<br>▪ None of the herders own or lease the land; they use it seasonally without formal agreements and are unaware of the official landowner.<br>▪ Most herders take care of their own livestock, except for one who employs a paid herder at 2.5 million UZS per month.<br>▪ The land is primarily used during spring and early summer; no crop farming or natural resource collection occurs on the site.<br>▪ There are no residential structures, assets, or cultural sites on the land that would be impacted.<br>▪ The livestock is used both for household consumption (meat, milk) and for selling, depending on the household.<br>▪ Most participants could not estimate what percentage of their income comes from livestock, though some have additional income sources (e.g., cleaning jobs, market work, pensions).<br>▪ No herder reported having access to alternative grazing land, nor did they indicate it would be easy to find new grazing areas.<br>▪ All participants confirmed they have no concerns about the Project. |
| Small Industrial Zone Businesses | June 2025 | ▪ Seven businesses attended the session. These included cardboard box manufacturing, livestock feed production, confectionery and bakery goods, printing, and brass products, as well as a business providing production space for others.<br>▪ Most businesses operate from Monday to Saturday, typically between 08:00–18:00. Two businesses operate 24/7 in shifts.<br>▪ The number of employees ranges from 3 to 60. All employees return home after work. None of the businesses provide overnight accommodation, but all offer basic rest areas.<br>▪ None of the businesses reported concerns related to the BESS Project or had special needs or seasonal activities that would be affected by construction.<br>▪ All businesses expressed willingness to participate in future consultations and preferred to be contacted by phone. |


Figure 16: FGD with Community Representatives of Beshkapa, Geofizika, Paskiyuz and Yuzrabot Mahallas

### 11.5.3 Consultations with Surrounding Communities

As part of the ESIA process, additional stakeholder engagement activities were conducted to inform residents and business owners that are closest to the site about the Project, its impacts, and gather feedback. Engagement focused on two main groups:

- **Residents of Pastkiyuz Mahalla,** living in the houses north and closest to the Project site.
- **Small Industrial Zone business owners and workers**, located directly south of the Project site.

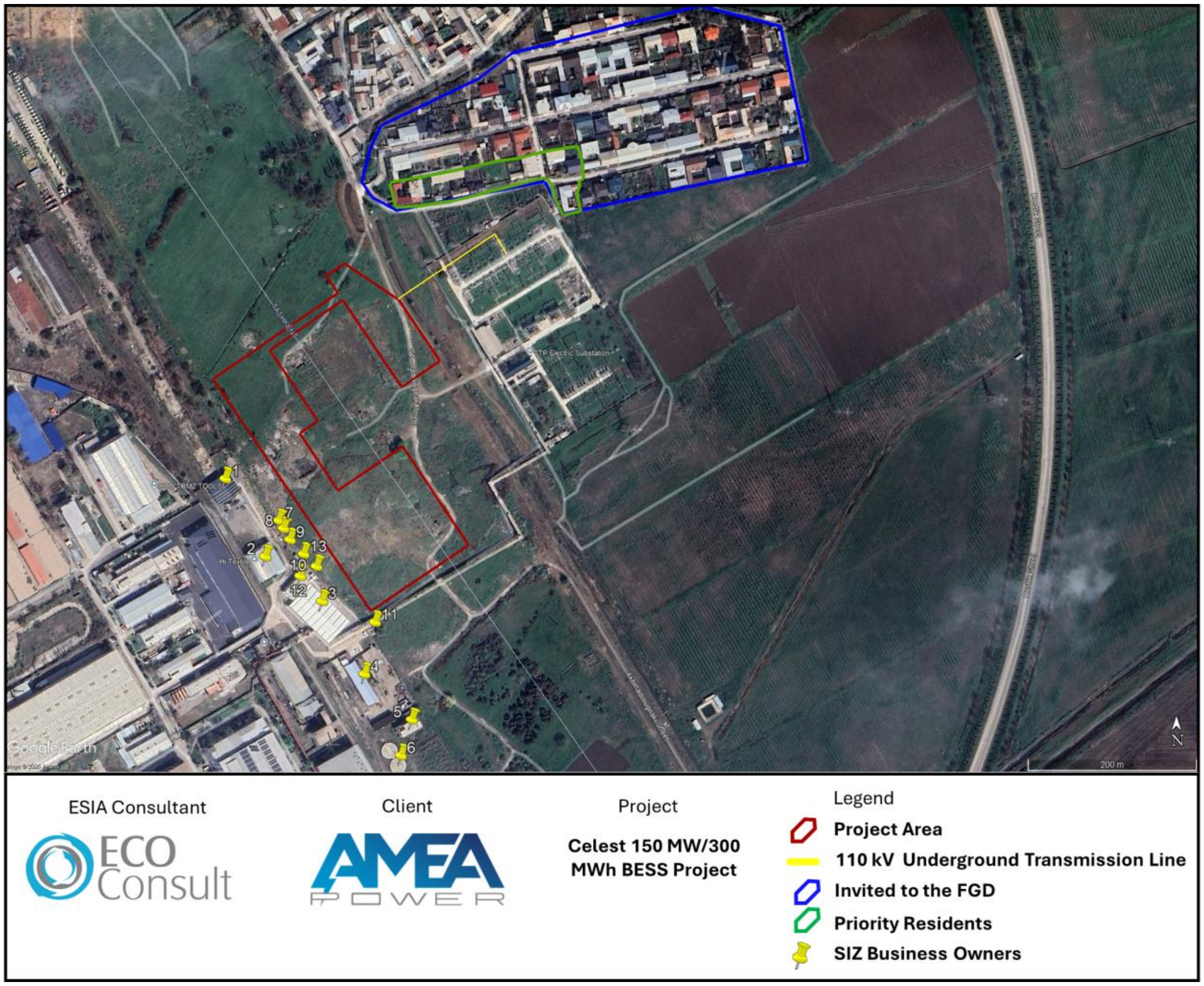


**Figure 17: Additional Stakeholder Engagement**

## FGD with Residential Stakeholders

An invitation was extended to the residents of the block of houses in Pastkiyuz Mahalla that is closest to the Project site as noted within the figure above in blue.

At the beginning of the FGD, a presentation on the Project was provided along with a handout on the following key topics.

- Description of the Project location along with maps;
- Description of key Project components along with figures and illustrations;
- Description of the key activities anticipated in each key phase of the Project (planning, construction and operation)
- Description of ESIA study and its key components and requirements;
- Explanation of key anticipated E&S impact under each phase of the Project; and
- Explanation of the methodology and scope of work that will be undertaken for the ESIA.

The presentation and handouts were provided in Uzbek language, while the delivery of the presentation was in Uzbek and Russian language depending on the audience.

Following the presentation, participants were invited to share any initial perceptions, questions, or concerns they may have about the Project, including any specific issues or expectations related to its potential impacts.

Key outcomes are summarized below:

- Overall, residents expressed interest in the Project but did not raise major concerns. Questions focused mainly on construction impacts, access arrangements, timelines, and community benefits.
- Concerns were raised about whether heavy trucks and machinery would pass through the mahalla streets during construction and potentially disturb residents; it was clarified that a separate access road through the Small Industrial Zone will be used for heavy vehicles.
- Inquiries were made regarding the small garden in front of the Traktorsoz substation; it was explained that underground cables will pass alongisde the garden area with minimal impact, and no trees will be removed.
- Questions were raised regarding the Project timeline and key milestones.


**Figure 18: FGD with Residential Stakeholders**

Following the FGD, targeted individual interviews were conducted with the 9 Priority households whose houses directly face the Project site, as noted in green in **Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.** above. 9 households Key outcomes are summarized below.

- Most households have been living in the area for many years, mostly since the early 2000s, with one household established in 2020.
- All interviewed residents own their houses and reside there year-round.

- None reported experiencing issues such as noise, vibration, or dust from the nearby existing substation.
- No concerns or objections regarding the proposed project were expressed.
- All preferred to receive updates by phone.
- One resident noted that their land plot is fenced but not yet inhabited.


**Figure 19: Targeted Interviews with Priority Residents**

**Direct Interviews with Small Industrial Zone Business Owners**

One-on-one interviews with business and industrial facility owners were undertaken as identified in the figure above. Interviews were conducted with business owners in the Small Industrial Zone located directly south of the Project site.

These interviews aimed to better understand their operations and gather any concerns, feedback or questions they may have regarding the Project.

A structured questionnaire was used to guide the interviews and ensure consistency in the information collected. The questionnaire covered the following key topics:

- Type and nature of business activities carried out;
- Operational hours and use of facilities;
- Any existing environmental or social concerns in the area (e.g., noise, dust, or traffic);
- Awareness and perceptions of the planned BESS Project;
- Questions, feedback, or concerns regarding potential impacts of the Project;
- Preferred methods for future communication.

The area of the Small Industrial Zone is a relatively active zone with several operational facilities, which were consulted and whose key outcomes are presented in the Table below. Based on desktop studies and Google Earth imagery, there are also smaller structures located along the fence separating the Project site from the Small Industrial Zone. During the survey, these structures were identified as transformers for the facilities, concrete slabs, bunker foundations, partially constructed buildings, and a bridge used to transfer the power line from the existing Traktorsoz substation to the Small Industrial Zone.

**Table 9: Small Industrial Zone Facilities**

| Businesses | Coordinates | Key Outcomes | | Photographs |
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| | Longitude | Latitude | | |
| Hi Textile | 41.348099° | 69.400466° | ▪ The facility appears to operate as a small retail or office space.<br>▪ No visible signs of textile machinery, factory buildings, production operations, or industrial noise sources were observed.<br>▪ The Hi Textile company has currently reduced its operations and is mainly engaged in fabric production.<br>▪ A total of four workers are currently employed at the textile facility.<br>▪ The facility operates from 09:00 to 18:00, and no staff stay overnight.<br>▪ There are no night-time operations.<br>▪ The company reported no existing issues in the area related to noise, vibrations, or dust.<br>▪ Representatives noted that improved power reliability (e.g., fewer outages) from the substation would positively impact their work.<br>▪ They expressed no concerns or questions regarding the planned project.<br>▪ Their preferred communication method is via phone or Telegram.<br>▪ No additional comments or feedback were provided about the project site. | <br> |
| Tasty Production MChJ - Confectionery Wholesaler | 41.346000° | 69.399918° | ▪ Functions primarily as a distribution and storage outlet for sweets and confectionery, involving inventory storage, occasional loading/unloading, and light logistics activities.<br>▪ The company is engaged in the production of confectionery products, including chewing gum, chupa chups, and baklava.<br>▪ The facility operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.<br>▪ Approximately 60 workers are employed at the facility.<br>▪ The company's peak operational period occurs during |  |

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| | | | March and April. | |
| OOO "Master Steel" - Industrial equipment supplier | 41.345022° | 69.400991° | ▪ Designs and manufactures stainless-steel industrial equipment for multiple sectors, including food, dairy, brewing, and chemical industries.<br>▪ Facility handles fabrication, welding, testing, and storage of stainless steel equipment.<br>▪ Engaged in the production of metal cisterns.<br>▪ Employs approximately 30 workers.<br>▪ Operating hours are 09:00 to 18:00, with no overnight staff.<br>▪ Reports no issues related to noise, vibrations, or dust from the surrounding area, including the substation. Improved power reliability would positively affect operations.<br>▪ Expressed no concerns or questions regarding the BESS project.<br>▪ Preferred communication methods are phone or Telegram.<br>▪ No additional comments or information were provided about the project site | <br> |
| Twin Stone LLC | 41.348930° | 69.400083° | ▪ Appears to be newly constructed (2024).<br>▪ Functions as a summer production workshop.<br>▪ Engaged in the production of sidewalk tiles and paving stones.<br>▪ No personnel were present at the time of the visit to allow for engagement. |  |

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| SLIV Print | 41.347607° | 69.401358° | ▪ The enterprise primarily produces plastic cups.<br>▪ A building that looks like worker accommodation is observed.<br>▪ PV panels are installed on the roof of one building.<br>▪ The administrative building is part of the facility.<br>▪ Operating hours are 09:00 to 18:00, with no overnight staff.<br>▪ Reports no issues related to noise, vibrations, or dust from the surrounding area, including the substation. Improved power reliability would positively affect operations.<br>▪ Expressed no concerns or questions regarding the BESS project.<br>▪ Preferred communication methods are phone or Telegram.<br>▪ No additional comments or information were provided about the project site | <br> |
| Kamoliddin Omad Baraka LLC | 41.346674° | 69.402586° | ▪ Engaged in metalworking and sorting/recycling of metals.<br>▪ Operating hours are 09:00 to 18:00, with no overnight staff.<br>▪ Reports no issues related to noise, vibrations, or dust from the surrounding area, including the substation. Improved power reliability would positively affect operations.<br>▪ Expressed no concerns or questions regarding the BESS project.<br>▪ Preferred communication methods are phone or Telegram.<br>▪ No additional comments or information were provided about the project site. |  |

**Direct meetings with Herders**

As part of the ESIA process, a Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) has been prepareed. The LRP includes targeted consultations with all herders on the Project site.