

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

**Chirnogeni Wind Farm Project 80 MW and Rehabilitation of the  
existing 110 kV high-voltage transmission line**

**EP WIND PROJECT (ROM) SIX SRL**

Prepared by

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## 1 BACKGROUND

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This document represents the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the *Chirnogeni Wind Farm (80 MW)*, and the *Rehabilitation of the High-Voltage Transmission (HV) Line Chirnogeni - Cobadin - Basarabi* (collectively referred to as “*the Project*”) to be implemented by *EP Global Energy (EPGE)*.

Chirnogeni Wind Farm 80 MW will be located on the territories of *Independenta* and *Chirnogeni Communes*. The existing HV line passes along the limits of the following communes: *Chirnogeni, Independenta, Cobadin and Basarabi (currently Murfatlar town)*.

S.C. Environmental Resources Management S.R.L. (*ERM*) was commissioned by EP Global Energy (*EPGE*), the parent company of EP WIND PROJECT (ROM) SIX SRL, to prepare an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Chirnogeni Wind Farm 80 MW in 2008. In 2011, ERM was contracted to review and update this ESIA, and additionally to assess the environmental and social impacts associated with the rehabilitation of the HV line. This new assessment was prepared as a supplementary report to the Project ESIA. These ESIA Reports will be submitted to EBRD, which the developer will approach to obtain necessary funding for the project.

A separate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report conducted to Romanian standards and legislation has been prepared by S.C. AS ORIMEX NEW S.R.L. and submitted to the LEPA Constanta (the competent authority to sustain the EIA legal procedure) on July 27, 2011. However, it is to be noted that the scope of the EIA Report only refers to the Chirnogeni Wind Farm 80 MW, as the works related to the rehabilitation of the HV line were considered to be maintenance works, which do not require an EIA.

Considering the background of the project, as discussed above, the disclosure of the rehabilitation component of the Project was undertaken only within the ESIA process.

### 1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

*Chirnogeni Wind Farm (80 MW)* will comprise 32 wind turbines each with a capacity of 2.5 MW, a Project Substation 20/110 kV and a permanent pole to support a weather station. All these components will be located within the unincorporated area of the Independenta Commune, Movila Verde Village

partly within the unincorporated fields of Chirnogeni Commune and partly within the incorporated area of Chirnogeni Village, in Constanta County. The energy generated by the Chirnogeni Wind Farm (80 MW) will be transferred to the point of interconnection with the Power Distribution Grid (PDG), which is located in the (existing) Chirnogeni Substation 110/20 kV, located within the unincorporated area of the Chirnogeni Commune, Constanta County. The Chirnogeni Wind Farm 80 MW site is approximately 16.9 km<sup>2</sup> which includes the project footprint, the wind safety area and a development buffer area. The footprint comprises the total area that was rezoned to industrial use, namely 0.124 km<sup>2</sup>, which includes the wind turbine towers, permanent access roads, a substation, and permanent crane platforms. The HV line which will be rehabilitated is approximately 45 km long. A new 20 kV underground transmission line will be constructed and will be 4.7 km long.

The main components of the Chirnogeni Wind Farm are listed below:

- A nominal capacity of 80 MW, (84.2 MVA) and will comprise 32 'out-of-step' NORDEX wind turbines, which each have a Doubly Fed Induction Generator (DFIG) and rated power of 2.5 MW (Un=0.66 kV).
- The construction of a permanent concrete platform at the site of each turbine which will be required for the installation and maintenance of the turbines.
- The construction of permanent crane pads.
- The upgrade of approximately 13 km of existing exploitation roads to the site and the construction of a permanent network of approximately 12 km of roads between the turbines and exploitation roads to provide access to the site.
- Construction of a Project Substation 20/110 kV with a capacity of 80 MW to be located within the wind farm site boundary.
- Installation of a network of underground medium voltage (20 kV) electrical connection lines having a length of approximately 26 km to link the turbines to the Project Substation 20/110 kV (within the wind farm site boundary).
- Construction and operation of underground transmission lines (110 kV) of 4.47 km from the Project Substation to the (existing) Chirnogeni Substation 110/20 kV which connects to the Power Distribution Grid owned by SC Enel Distribuție Dobrogea SA ("ENEL").
- The construction of a temporary construction compound within the wind farm site boundary.

- Installation of equipment for a new underground transmission line 110 kV switch in the existing Chirnogeni substation in order to enable connection of the wind farm.

The main works to be performed as part of the rehabilitation of the existing HV line are:

- Works required for the 110/20 kV transformer stations:
  - Chirnogeni - installation of a 110 kV bar;
  - Cobadin - rehabilitation of a 110 kV switchgear; installation of longitudinal coupling equipment for the 110 kV bar section; extension of the 110 kV station with a 110 kV overhead electrical line.
  - Basarabi - extension of the 110 kV station with a 110 kV overhead electrical line with a 10 kV transfer bar; extension of 1 and 2 bar system of 110 kV.
- Works required for the 110 kV overhead lines:
  - Installation of conductors between Basarabi - Cobadin;
  - Conversion of the existing 110 kV overhead electrical lines currently used as 20 kV lines back to the initial specifications for 110 kV use by replacing isolators along the 45 km corridor.
- Works required for the 20 kV overhead electrical lines:
  - Transfer of the existing 20 kV connections between Cobadin - Chirnogeni;
  - Installation of a new 20 kV underground power line in the Basarabi area, which will replace the corresponding section of the 110 kV overhead electrical lines between Cobadin - Basarabi in the area's 20 kV network.

The responsibility for the rehabilitation works belongs to ENEL. These works will be carried out by a subcontractor approved by ENEL and financed by EPGE.

### 1.3

#### *PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT*

The SEP provides for the identification of stakeholders, i.e. people who have an interest or a role in the Project development or could be affected by the Project, and sets out the planned program for disclosure of project information and consultation with stakeholders as well as the methods for handling stakeholders' concerns and grievances in case they arise.

This SEP is prepared in the context of the environmental and social impact assessment process for the Project. While the local regulatory framework in Romania refers to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) only, *EPGE* is also looking at the social implications of the Project as per best international practice. *EPGE* is thus undertaking a wider scoped Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

Fundamentally, this SEP follows the public information and consultation requirements embedded in the respective regulatory ESIA requirements in Romania which are based on the respective EU framework (Directive 2003/35EC). *EPGE* will add some supplementary elements for disclosure and stakeholder engagement in line with best international practice and EBRD Environmental and Social Policy 2008 (Performance Requirement 10) as described herein.

The main supplementary element to the legally prescribed process in Romania is to include wider stakeholder views early on in the project. Therefore, the project undertook as a voluntary and additional element focused consultations in the course of the Scoping Stage of the ESIA.

This SEP is not a formal document required for the purpose of an application in Romania. It is intended to provide to stakeholders, including the public, a transparent view on the consultation and disclosure activities planned for the Project. The SEP will be updated during the course of the project development. It will be made publicly available on the *EPGE* website (<http://www.epglobalenergy.com>) and will be locally accessible to the public as part of the project information disclosure policy and program as described below.

In Romania, disclosure of project information and public consultation in decision making for investment projects is regulated by the following pieces of legislation outlined in *Table 2.1* below.

**Table 2.1** *Relevant National EIA Legislation*

<b>Legislation/Relevant Plans</b>	<b>No./Date</b>	<b>Purpose/Scope</b>
Environmental Protection Law	Law No. 265/2006 amending GEO No. 164/2008	Sets up the permitting framework (including EIA).
Application methodology for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Procedure for public and private projects	Ministerial Order No. 135/2010	Regulates the procedure for issuing of Development Agreement, respectively the procedure for application and issuing of the Environmental Agreement.
Impact Assessment for certain public and private projects	Government Decision No. 445/2009	Defines the projects for which an Environmental Impact Assessment is needed. Transposes the EU Directive 85/337/EEC and respectively 97/11/EC for EIA, as well as Directive 2003/35/EC related to public participation and respectively Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC.
Guidelines for EIA	Ministerial Order No. 863/26 September 2002	Guidelines for the EIA screening and scoping and review, based on EU Directives edited by the DG Environment.
EIA procedure in a transboundary context	Ministerial Order No. 864/26 September 2002	Establishes the EIA procedures in a transboundary context and those of public participation in decision making regarding projects with transboundary impacts, and the list of projects included in Annex No. 1 of the Convention on transboundary EIA ratified by Law No. 22/2001

The legislation stipulates that the public must be consulted during the Project Process. The mandatory consultation steps are outlined in *Table 2.2* below.

**Table 2.2** *Consultation Steps of the Romanian EIA Procedure*

<b>Step</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline for Competent Authority as defined in legislation</b>	<b>Estimated time (for steps not defined in legislation)</b>
Preparation and Submittal of Application File and initial assessment to the Local Environmental Protection Agency (LEPA).  To be submitted by the Project Developer	Preparation and submittal of the Notification and Urban Certificate for Construction. Time frame based on the assumption that Urban Certificate for Construction, landownership certificate or the right to use the land document and Basic Design of the project development.  Note:  1. The land ownership certificate is listed as a document required for the issuance of the Environmental Agreement pursuant to the applicable legislation (GD No. 445/2009 and MO No. 135/2010). However, the relevant legislation does not expressly require for the applicant to be the owner of the land on which the project shall be developed. Nonetheless, the developer has to prove its right to use the plot of land on which the project shall be developed.  2. The Urban Certificate for Construction defines all approvals needed to obtain the Construction Permit. The EIA Procedure can be initiated only after the Urban Certificate (for Construction) is issued since it is needed for the above mentioned application.		15 working days
	Initial assessment by the LEPA and site visit;  Decision regarding the start of the EIA procedure including the appropriate assessment procedure;	10 days after receiving the Notification	

	Preparation and submittal of the Presentation Memorandum (PM);  Public announcement on the application submittal by the Developer (announcement prepared by LEPA).	No timeline defined in legislation	30 days
Screening stage performed by LEPA	LEPA will undertake the following actions:  detailed assessment of all submitted documents;  defining the members of the Technical Analysis Committee (TAC);  assessment of the potential transboundary impact according to Law 22/2001;  prepare the checklist for screening, public announcement on website regarding the submittal of the documents for issuing of the environmental agreement;  sending the public announcement template to the Developer  submittal of the PM to TAC member and communicate the date of the TAC meeting;  call for First TAC Meeting: present the check list, present the project and take the screening decision.  The developer shall publish the announcement regarding the submittal of the PM.	within 15 days from reviewing the PM	
	LEPA and the developer will make the public announcement regarding the screening decision;	Within 10 days after receiving the template of the announcement	
	Waiting for public comment to the screening decision	Within 3 days after the TAC meeting	
	LEPA calls the second TAC meeting, assesses public comments and prepares the final screening decision	5 days after publishing the announcement	
		Within 10 days after receiving public comments	

Scoping stage performed by LEPA	<p>LEPA will perform the following actions:</p> <p>complete the scoping check list and send it to the TAC members;</p> <p>call the third TAC meeting and present the scoping check list;</p> <p>prepare and submit the guideline for the EIA Report to the Developer;</p> <p>publish the EIA guideline on the website.</p>	<p>within 10 days from communication of the final screening decision</p>	
Preparation and submittal of the EIA by the Developer	<p>Preparation of the EIA according to the defined EIA scope by LEPA and followed by Consultant accredited by the Ministry of Environment to perform the EIA in the respective field of activity.</p> <p>Submittal of the EIA by the Project Developer to the LEPA.</p>	<p>No timeline defined in the legislation</p>	<p>70 working days</p>
Public consultation procedure initiated by the LEPA	<p>After receiving the EIA report, LEPA analyses the document and establishes the details of the public hearing (date and venue) with the developer.</p> <p>LEPA publishes the EIA report on its official website and provides the template of the public announcement to the developer</p> <p>LEPA and the developer publish the announcement on the public hearing (date and venue) in the newspaper/own official website.</p>	<p>Within 5 days after submittal of the EIA report</p> <p>At least 20 days before the public hearing</p>	
Public hearing	<p>Following the public hearing, LEPA assesses public comments and requests the developer additional information, if applicable. Additionally, LEPA prepares the check list for the EIA report.</p>	<p>Within 20 days after the public hearing</p>	
Issue of the Environmental Agreement by LEPA	<p>If applicable, LEPA provides the supplementary information to the TAC members and finalizes the check list for the EIA report.</p> <p>LEPA calls the forth TAC meeting to make the final decision regarding the issuing of the Environmental Agreement.</p>	<p>Within 10 days after receiving the supplementary information from the developer</p>	

LEPA undertakes the following actions: inform the applicant on the decision made after the forth TAC meeting; provide the developer with the template of the public announcement; and publish the announcement of the decision to issue the Environmental Agreement and provides the draft of this regulatory act.	Within 15 days after the forth TAC meeting
The developer publishes the decision of the LEPA to issue the Environmental Agreement in the newspaper and on its own website.	Within 3 days after receiving the template of the public announcement
Waiting for public comments on the LEPA decision to issue the Environmental Agreement	Within 5 days after the public announcement in the newspaper
LEPA issues the Environmental Agreement	Within 5 days after the end of the period allocated for public comments
LEPA publishes the supplemented EIA report, if applicable, on its own website for public information	For a period of 15 days

The overall duration of the EIA procedure, including fixed periods defined by law and estimated periods (not defined in law) is estimated to be approximately 6 months. The EIA procedure for the Project was started on June 17, 2011 when the screening application file was submitted to LEPA Constanta. At the time of writing this SEP, the Project was in the screening stage.

European Union Directives as well as EBRD's Environmental and Social Policy 2008 require public consultation and information disclosure to be carried out as a lending prerequisite. The objectives of Performance Requirement 10 of EBRD's Policy are presented below:

- to identify people or communities that are or could be affected by the project as well as other interested parties;
- to 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;

to maintain a constructive relationship with stakeholders on an ongoing basis through meaningful engagement during project implementation.

In order to develop an effective SEP it was necessary to determine who the stakeholders are and understand their priorities and objectives in relation to the project.

The purpose of a SEP is to describe the company strategy and program for engaging with stakeholders in a culturally appropriate manner (whether it be for a single project or a range of activities). The goal is to ensure the timely provision of relevant and understandable information and to create a process that provides opportunities for all stakeholders to express their views and concerns, and allows the company to consider and respond to them.

The SEP focuses specifically on providing information on when and how Project information will be disclosed to the Public and how consultation activities are planned to be carried out.

For the purposes of this Plan, a stakeholder is defined as '*any individual or group who is potentially affected by a project or can themselves affect a project*'. The objective of stakeholder identification is therefore to establish which organizations and individuals may be directly or indirectly affected (positively and negatively) by the project; and who may have an impact or influence on the project. Stakeholder identification is an ongoing process requiring regular review and updates.

Stakeholder engagement is about building and maintaining constructive relationships over time with both internal and external individuals and organizations affected by or interested in the company's activities or projects. It is an ongoing process between a company and its stakeholders that extends throughout the life of the project or activity and encompasses a range of activities and approaches, from information sharing and consultation, to participation, negotiation, and formation of partnerships. The nature and frequency of this engagement should reflect the level of risks and impacts associated with the company activity or projects.

Key principles of effective engagement include:

- Providing meaningful information in a format and language that is readily understandable and tailored to the needs of the target stakeholder group(s);
- Providing information in advance of consultation activities and decision-making;

- Providing information in ways and locations that ease the stakeholders access to these and that are culturally appropriate;
- Respect for local traditions, languages, timeframes, and decision-making processes;
- Two-way dialogue that gives both sides the opportunity to exchange views and information, to listen, and to have their issues heard and addressed;
- Inclusiveness in representation of views, including ages, women and men, vulnerable and/or minority groups;
- Processes free of intimidation or coercion or incentivisation;
- Clear mechanisms for responding to people's concerns, suggestions, and grievances; and

Incorporating, where appropriate and feasible, feedback into the company activity, project or program design, and reporting back to stakeholders. The following section provides a preliminary identification of the stakeholders involved in the Project. Consequently, the following main groups of stakeholders have been identified so far:

*Statutory organizations and bodies* which are involved in the permitting processes according to Romanian legal requirements or have other responsibilities related to the Project (see *Annex A* for contact details):

- Romanian Ministry of National Defence;
- Romanian Ministry of Administration and Interior;
- Romanian Intelligence Service, Bucharest Headquarter;
- Romanian Civil Aeronautic Authority;
- Romanian National Power Grid Company Transelectrica - Local Branch Constanta;
- ENEL Distributie Dobrogea;
- Romanian National Gas Transport Company;
- Local Environmental Protection Agency (LEPA) Constanta;
- Constanta County Council;
- Constanta County Police Inspectorate;
- Local Public Health Directorate Constanta;

- Romanian National Land Improvement Administration (NLIA), Local Branch Dobrogea, Constanta Sud Administration Unit;
- Constanta Cadastre and Real Estate Publicity Office;
- Constanta Directorate for Culture, Religious Affairs and National Cultural Heritage of Constanta County;
- Chirnogeni, Independenta, Cobadin and Murfatlar Mayoralties.

*Research institutions and NGOs* - Several research institutions and NGOs at national and regional level have been involved in the Project starting from its early phases:

- Romanian Bats Protection Association;
- National History and Archaeology Museum Constanta;
- Grigore Antipa National Museum of Natural History (Bucharest);
- the Romanian Ornithological Society (affiliate of BirdLife International);
- NGO Oceanic Club; and
- NGO Mare Nostrum.

*Land owners / Land users* - EPGE has already purchased the permanent plots used for the Project (required for turbine foundations, Project substation and access roads). The identification of land owners and land users, including private individuals, agricultural cooperatives, commercial farms and other users, is an ongoing process. At present, EPGE is compiling the contact details of land users (names and addresses), which may be affected by the Project, and these will be added to the list of Stakeholders (see *Annex A*).

*Local population* of the nearby communes has already been involved in the Project and consulted starting in its early stages. Should any of these persons be interested in becoming more involved in the Project, they will be specifically included in the list of Stakeholders by contacting Ms. Carmen Agi-Ali (contact details are provided in *Annex B*).

*General public* represents the population living outside the communes affected by the Project (including those who are vulnerable and/or socially excluded). The general public is represented by various statutory organizations and bodies and NGOs. Should any of these persons be interested in becoming more involved in the Project, they will be specifically included in the list of Stakeholders by contacting Ms. Carmen Agi-Ali (contact details are provided in *Annex B*).

*Employees and workers of EPGE and contractors / subcontractors* - The company HR policy will include an internal grievance mechanism for employees and workers during the construction and operation of the Project. This internal mechanism will establish a specific internal communication process. Consequently, this group has not been included in the list of Stakeholders.

EPGE will prepare a separate consultation plan for the employees/workers at the various Project stages.

## 4 DISCLOSURE OF PROJECT INFORMATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### 4.1 OVERVIEW

For clarification, it is to be mentioned that the assessment of impacts associated with the Project are addressed by two separate studies:

- *an Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Chirnojeni Wind Farm, 32 turbines, 80 MW, Chirnojeni and Independenta Communes, in line with Romanian permitting requirements (prepared by S.C. AS ORIMEX NEW S.R.L. in July 2011), and*
- *two ESIA Reports (one for Chirnojeni Wind Farm 80 MW and a Supplemental ESIA report for the rehabilitation of the HV line Chirnojeni - Cobadin - Basarabi) in line with international standards and EBRD PRs (these documents were prepared by ERM).*

This section outlines the requirements for public disclosure of Project information and public consultation to be conducted based on the regulations outlined in Section 2 as well as the supplementary, voluntary Project public disclosure conducted by EPGE.

### 4.2 SCREENING AND SCOPING

Under Romanian regulations, competent authorities must become involved in the EIA following submittal of the Notification and Presentation Memorandum for EIA document to the LEPA (see *Table 2.2* for a detailed description of the national permitting procedure and authorities involved).

The first step in the Romanian EIA process is to prepare a Notification and a Presentation Memorandum, which together comprise an Application File for the Screening Stage and which are required to start the official EIA process. The Presentation Memorandum explains the salient features of the proposed Project and the technologies to be used, technical details about the project and identifies the likely environmental impacts of the Project so that the competent authority can decide on the need for and scope of the required EIA.

Under Romanian regulations, no consultation with either authorities or the public needs to be conducted prior to submission of the Screening Application File. Following submission of this application, only high level consultation is required by law, involving the dissemination of information internally to all affected regional and local authorities by the LEPA. However, in order to

establish a Scoping process for the Project which is in line with international best practice, *EPGE* initiated contacts with the local authorities and the public in the project area prior to submission of the Screening Application File in the form of public meetings in the communes affected by the Project.

However, in order to comply with EBRD PR10, *EPGE* performed a stakeholder consultation within the Scoping stage of the ESIA for the Chirnogeni Wind Farm. It should be noted that at the time of the initial consultations, details on the HV line rehabilitation component of the Project - length of the line to be rehabilitated, types of equipment to be upgraded in the substations and construction of the new 4.7 km underground transmission line - were not available.

Consultation with stakeholders commenced in November 2008 when the public consultation leaflet was distributed to all stakeholders and sent by regular post to all residents of Independenta and Chirnogeni villages (see *Annex C*). Details of the stakeholders consulted and the information presented and discussed is provided in below.

**Table 4.1** *List of Stakeholders consulted and information provided*

<b>Group</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Topics for discussion</b>
<b>Government</b>	Local Environmental Protection Agency- APM Constanta	ERM contacted the Local Environmental Protection Agency (Ms. Tompos Catusa- head of permitting department) and the Constanta County Council (Mr. Titi Cenusă - head of Urban planning department) starting November 11, 2008 in order to:  - introduce the EPGE and ERM Project Team and the roles that we have on the project;  - to establish contact with LEPA / Constanta County Council;  - to obtain valuable information from both authorities regarding the permitting process for the project  - discuss the likely requirements for baseline surveys, any concerns that LEPA might have, the local feeling for projects like this.  The overall discussions held are included in the Minutes of Meeting attached to this Plan- see Annex D.
	Constanta County Council	
	Independenta Commune Council	EPGE has contacted the Mayors of Independenta and Chirnogeni (starting December 2008) in order to introduce the project and obtained the principal agreements for constructing the wind farm in the areas of Independenta and Chirnogeni communes.
	Chirnogeni Commune Council	ERM has contacted Mrs. Dan Claudia, Secretary of the Mayor of Chirnogeni in February 2009 in order to request the information about the socio-economical characteristics of the Chirnogeni commune and associated villages.  ERM has contacted Mr. Cristea Gascan, Mayor of Independenta Commune in February 2009 in order to request the information about the socio-economical characteristics of the Independenta commune and associated villages.

Group	Name	Topics for discussion
	Constanta County Police Inspectorate	In late March 2009, ERM contacted the Constanta County Police Department and sent them an official letter and the leaflet comprising project information in order to find out the position of this authority in relation to the project development. According to the official letter No. 79688 dated 23 March 2009, signed by Mr. Zahau Aurelian, Head of the Police Inspectorate of Constanta County, it is stated that the project will not have any influence on the police activities throughout the county.
<b>Local NGOs, other (research, media)</b>	Romanian Bats Protection Association	ERM has contacted Mr. Farkas Szodorai-Paradi, founding member at the Romanian Bats Protection Association on December 3, 2008 in order to discuss potential impact of wind turbines on local population of bats.
	National History and Archaeology Museum Constanta	ERM has contacted Mr. Ghiorghe Papuc deputy director in several occasions (starting February 2, 2009) to start the assessment of the project impacts on the archaeological sites. ERM started the process of gathering the information about known archaeological sites in the project area and requested the experts from the Museum of professional judgment concerning the potential impact of the project on the known and unknown archaeological sites.
	Grigore Antipa National Museum of Natural History	In late March 2009, ERM contacted Mr. Gabriel Chisamera, a research scientist within the Department of Terrestrial Fauna of the Grigore Antipa National Museum of Natural History and sent the public consultation leaflet for information about the project. Based on this, Mr. Chisamera appreciated that the project site does not overlap with any Natura 2000 or other designated protected areas. However, he recommended that the EIA should assess the construction impacts on migratory birds in the area and on natural habitats. Additionally, he recommended that the project should take certain measures to minimize impact on birds such as installing warning systems to reduce the number of bird collisions and these measures should be described in detail in the EIA Report.

Group	Name	Topics for discussion
	Oceanic Club	ERM contacted Ms. Mihaela Candea, Executive Director of the NGO Mare Nostrum via phone in March 2009 and emailed the project information comprised in the project consultation leaflet. No feedback with regard to the project was received from the NGO.
	Mare Nostrum	ERM and the project developer had a face-to-face meeting with Mr. Razvan Popescu Mirцени, the Coordinating Manager of the Oceanic Club NGO on 20 March 2009 in Constanta. A project presentation and the leaflet were provided to support the discussions. Mr. Popescu Mirцени confirmed that there would be no significant issues of concern given the location of the site in an agricultural area. However, he mentioned that Dobrogea is the region which hosts the highest number of endemic bird species and recommended that this should be considered, assessed and presented in the EIA.

The information gathered at these consultation sessions was used to determine the scope and content of the ESIA. The overall discussions held are included in the Minutes of Meeting attached to this Plan- see *Annex D*.

In line with the Romanian law on public consultation, during the Scoping stage of the EIA procedure the following outlined steps were undertaken:

- A Notification and Presentation Memorandum were submitted to LEPA Constanta on June 17, 2011 (as part of the Application File for the project);
- EPGE made the public announcement on July 4 and 5, 2011, at Chirnoieni and Independenta Local Councils and in Constanta County mass-media;
- The second public announcement was made July 14, 2011 at Chirnoieni and Independenta Local Councils and in the Constanta County mass-media.
- A Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) was held following submittal of the Application File on June 17, 2011. The objective of this meeting was to discuss the project and the requirements for the EIA. It involved representatives from all relevant authorities and institutions e.g. the Emergency Authority, the Water Management Authority, National Environmental Guard, Health Authority, Fire Fighting Inspectorate, Labor

Protection Inspectorate and service providers if relevant. Preparation of the EIA and ESIA

Ongoing consultation will continue through the remainder of the EIA and ESIA processes. Romanian regulations do not require public consultation until after the EIA Report has been submitted to the Competent Authority. However, further consultation was held during baseline studies/surveys (archaeological survey, socio-economic survey, traffic study and ecology survey) and the assessment as needed to inform the process of preparing the ESIA.

During the preparation of the ESIA, EPGE consulted the inhabitants of Independenta and Chirnogeni Communes on 30, respectively 31 May 2009. The date and time of the consultation meeting was advertised in the leaflets sent by regular post, one week in advance, to all the inhabitants of the two communes enabling as wide a cross section of the public to attend as possible. These meetings were attended by 34 villagers in Independenta and 33 in Chirnogeni. Discussions held related to the project components, timeline for construction, opportunities to use the energy produced and future plans of the developer in the area. The information gathered during discussions with the local population during the exhibition was fed into the overall project design and the final ESIA report. Also, the comments received during the consultations were recorded in the meeting minutes (see *Annex D*) and will be fed back into the central comment registry as part of the wider EPGE grievance mechanism (See *Section 5* for more details).

#### 4.3 ***EIA AND ESIA REPORTS DISCLOSURE***

The EIA Report prepared by the S.C. AS ORIMEX NEW S.R.L. was submitted to Constanța LEPA on July 27, 2011 and was made available for review by government agencies, NGOs and for community and public comments. It is the role of the Constanta LEPA to circulate it to all authorities. Constanta LEPA will evaluate the report, another TAC meeting will take place and a public hearing has to be conducted followed by a public commenting period. This procedure typically takes approximately 3 to 4 months if there are no significant comments from the public.

It is the responsibility of Constanta LEPA to advertise the presence of the EIA and the public participation process through the local media and council office bulletin boards. Constanta LEPA must also provide the public with access to Project information and the EIA document via the council offices or the EPGE website. EPGE will provide sufficient hard copies of the EIA report to the

Commune Councils to ensure that the document is available for the local population to review.

As part of the Romanian EIA legal procedure, Constanta LEPA shall organize a Public Hearing, whose date and venue have to be brought to the knowledge of the public at least 20 days in advance. The EIA Report shall be published on the website of Constanta LEPA and EPGE. Relevant comments received during the Public Hearing will be addressed in a revised version of the EIA Report.

The legally prescribed public consultation period for the EIA is 30 days. International project finance organizations as well as EBRD typically require 60 days local disclosure, i.e. public access to the EIA documentation. EPGE will discuss with the Constanta LEPA how to adapt the time schedule for disclosure and public EIA discussions to meet with this standard.

In addition, an ESIA disclosure package, consisting of this SEP, a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the ESIA and Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP), will be made available to the public in Romanian via the EPGE website (<http://www.epglobalenergy.com>) and EBRD website, and in hard copies at all communes in the Project area (Chirnogeni, Independenta, Cobadin and Basarabi).

Disclosure methods will be selected to meet the needs of each group to ensure key issues are addressed from the perspective of those who have raised and are affected by them. It is expected that government officials will be consulted as a group using a relatively technical level of presentation and discussion. Local communities are likely to be better served by less technical meetings in community centres using highly visual materials and layman's language. Small focus groups meetings within communities may also be appropriate for particular groups, specifically for people from less powerful groups, those who have little influence and those who are hard to access.

Using the methodology described above, EPGE via ERM organized public hearings to disclose the ESIA report on 6 and 7 August 2011 in the communities affected by the Project (Chirnogeni, Independenta, Cobadin and Murfatlar - Siminoc village). Prior to the hearings, the invitation and Project leaflet (see Annex C) were distributed by regular mail to all the residents of the local communities.

Government officials (representatives of the LEPA Constanta, National Environmental Guard of Constanta County, Commune Mayors) and NGOs Oceanic Club and Mare Nostrum were also invited to these hearings but did not attend them.

These hearings were attended by 23 villagers in Chirnogeni, 4 in Independenta, 12 in Cobadin and 25 in Siminoc. Discussions held related to the project components (wind farm and transmission line), timeline for construction/rehabilitation, environmental features assessed, impacts identified and mitigation measures proposed, mechanism by means of which they can express their views, complaints, grievances and how these will be addressed. Additionally, the comments/questions received during the consultations were recorded in the meeting minutes (see *Annex D*) and will be fed back into the central comment registry as part of the wider EPGE grievance mechanism (See *Section 5* for more details).

The indicative timeline for the disclosure of the EIA, respectively ESIA Reports, was developed and included in this SEP (see *Table 4.2* below).

**Table 4.2** *Indicative SEP timeline*

Activity	Stakeholders involved	Indicative Timeline	Responsible
<b>EIA</b>			
Public announcement after submittal of the screening Application File	LEPA Constanta,	July 4 and 5, 2011	LEPA Constanta and EPGE
TAC meetings held	LEPA Constanta, National Environmental Guard - Constanta Commissary, Health Authority, Water Management Authority, NGOs	June 30, 2011	LEPA Constanta
Publication of the EIA guideline on the official website	LEPA Constanta, National Environmental Guard - Constanta Commissary, Health Authority, Water Management Authority, general public, NGOs	August 1, 2011	LEPA Constanta
Publication of the EIA report on the official website	LEPA Constanta, National Environmental Guard - Constanta Commissary, Health Authority, Water	Middle of August 2011	LEPA Constanta and EPGE

Activity	Stakeholders involved	Indicative Timeline	Responsible
	Management Authority, general public, NGOs		
Public hearing of the EIA report	Any stakeholder can participate at this hearing	Middle of September 2011	LEPA Constanta, EPGE
Public disclosure of the final decision to issue the Environmental Agreement	Any stakeholders should have access to this decision via internet, local newspapers	Middle of October 2011	LEPA Constanta, EPGE
<b>ESIA</b>			
Early consultation meetings to inform the local relevant authorities & NGOs about the Project	Constanta LEPA & County Council, Chirnogeni and Independenta Mayors & Local Councils	2008-2009	EPGE
Meetings during the scoping phase and exhibition during the preparation of the ESIA report; inform local concerned public via an information leaflet and presentation	All identified stakeholders	2009	EPGE
Publication of the ESIA disclosure package (SEP, NTS and ESAP) on the EBRD websites	All identified stakeholders	End of July 2011	EBRD, EPGE
Disclosure of the conclusions of the ESIA reports by meetings in each community from the Project area	All identified stakeholders	August 2011	EPGE
Public disclosure of ESIA package (which should be available at the EPGE office, official website and local municipalities affected)	All stakeholders	August 2011	EPGE
Consultation of the local farmers regarding the construction	All stakeholders	Continuous	EPGE

Activity	Stakeholders involved	Indicative Timeline	Responsible
schedule and local announcement about specific construction activities which might interfere with the daily local activities (in the affected communities only)			
Disclosure of all environmental and social annual reports – this should be made available at the EPGE office and on the official website	All identified stakeholders	Annually	EPGE
Disclosure of requested information, response to grievances or comments received	Stakeholders whom are requesting information	Continuous	EPGE

Consultations meetings (following the disclosure the ESIA Package) will be announced by EPGE in the local press and on local bulletin boards/posting of notices at publicly accessible locations at least one week in advance.

All comments received by EPGE from this point onwards will be recorded in the project's comments registry as part of the wider EPGE grievance mechanism. This will allow the public to send comments or concerns directly to EPGE for inclusion and/or consideration into the full ESIA document (See *Section 5* for more details).

#### 4.4

#### **DECISION**

After the fourth TAC meeting, LEPA will make the public announcement regarding the decision of issuing the Environmental Agreement. After this announcement, there is a period of 5 days within which the public can make comments to this decision. Constanta LEPA will handle the public comments using information comprised on the EIA report or requesting additional information to the developer, if necessary.

Consequently, if the evaluation of the EIA results will enable LEPA to handle all the public comments, then the Environmental Agreement can be issued in October 2011 (according to the timeline presented in *Table 2.2*).

## 4.5

**OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

In order to maximize the effectiveness of the public engagement process, EPGE will use the most appropriate communication channels for providing stakeholders with necessary information and for meaningful consultations. In order to determine what the most appropriate engagement method is, EPGE will prepare a matrix for stakeholder engagement level. This matrix has the following content:

<b>Project stage</b>	<b>Type(s) of information disclosed</b>	<b>Form(s) of communication</b>	<b>Location and dates of meetings</b>	<b>Stakeholders consulted</b>
Screening	Intention to develop the Project, presentation of its key components	Face-to-face meeting and presentation	LEPA Constanta Office, 11 November 2008	LEPA Constanta
Screening	Intention to develop the Project, presentation of its key components	Face-to-face meeting and presentation	Constanta County Council Office, 11 November 2008	Constanta County Council
Scoping	Key components of the Project, discuss potential impacts of wind turbines on local populations of bats and agree on the methodology used for impact assessment	Phone conference, public consultation leaflet emailed	3 December 2008	Romanian Bats Protection Association
Scoping and preparation of the ESIA	Key components of the Project, local permitting framework, discussions on other projects proposed in the area and baseline socio-economic data	Phone conferences, presentation emailed	December 2008 - February 2009	Chirnojeni and Independenta Mayoralties
Scoping and preparation of the ESIA	Key components of the Project, discussion about the known	Face-to-face meeting, phone conferences	Office of the Deputy Director of the National	2 February 2009, March 2009

<b>Project stage</b>	<b>Type(s) of information disclosed</b>	<b>Form(s) of communication</b>	<b>Location and dates of meetings</b>	<b>Stakeholders consulted</b>
	archaeological sites in the Project area and agree on impact assessment methodology		History and Archaeology Museum	
Preparation of the ESIA	Key components of the Project, discussion of potential project impacts on bird activities and assessment methodology	Phone conference, public consultation leaflet emailed	March 2009	Grigore Antipa National Museum of Natural History
Preparation of the ESIA	Key components of the Project, assessment of potential interference of the Project with Police activities	Phone conference, presentation emailed	March 2009	Constanta County Police Inspectorate
Preparation of the ESIA	Key components of the Project, discuss key issues to be considered by the ESIA	Phone conference, public consultation leaflet emailed	March 2009	NGO Oceanic Club
Preparation of the ESIA	Key components of the Project, discuss key issues to be considered by the ESIA	Face-to-face meeting, public consultation leaflet emailed	Mare Nostrum office, 20 March 2009	NGO Mare Nostrum
Preparation of the ESIA	Key components of the Project, timeline for construction, potential impacts of the Project, present the mechanism of becoming involved in the Project	Face-to-face consultation meetings, invitation and public consultation leaflet sent by regular mail	30 and 31 May 2009, community centers of Chirnogeni and Independenta Communes	Land owners/users, local population
Disclosure of	Key components	Face-to-face	6 and 7	Land

Project stage	Type(s) of information disclosed	Form(s) of communication	Location and dates of meetings	Stakeholders consulted
the ESIA	of the Project, potential impacts during construction and operation, mitigation measures proposed, mechanism by which people can become involved in the project and address their complaints, grievances	consultation meetings, invitation and public consultation leaflet sent by regular mail	August 2011, community centers of Chirnojeni, Independenta, Cobadin and Siminoc Communes	owners/users, local population
Disclosure of the ESIA	Key components of the Project, potential impacts during construction and operation, mitigation measures proposed, mechanism by which people can become involved in the project and address their complaints, grievances	Face-to-face consultation meeting, invitation and public consultation leaflet email	8 August 2011, Oceanic Club office	NGO Oceanic Club

Beside the formal communication methods, EPGE will also make use of the following ones for keeping all the stakeholders engaged at appropriate level:

- annual publications
- meetings (direct and indirect)
- public meetings/hearings
- websites
- announcements in local/regional/national newspapers

- provision of general and specific information on boards and internal publication
- official notifications.

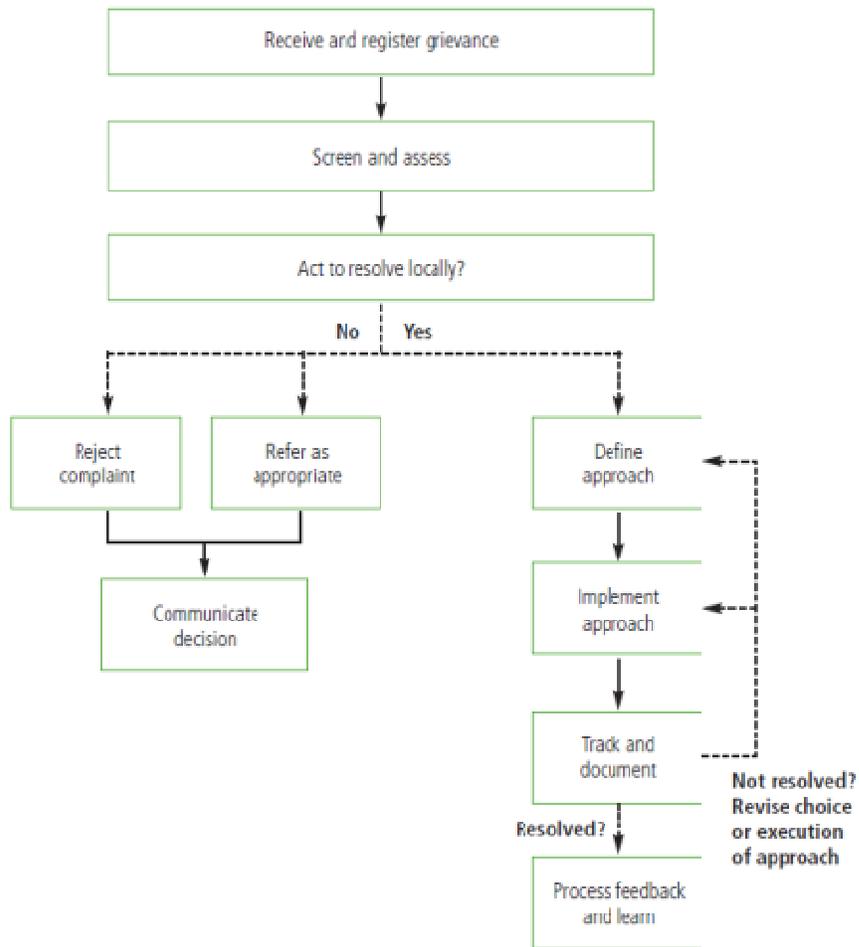
## GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

A grievance management system is a standard element of any international level SEP. The management system encompasses the mechanism which EPGE will implement to ensure that all stakeholder comments, suggestions and objections throughout the project lifecycle are captured and considered, addressed and redressed in a systematic and structured manner.

The regulatory EIA process in Romania does not include a prescribed mechanism to receive and consider comments and suggestion from stakeholders including the public. For this reason, EPGE will base the grievance mechanism on an international best practice example and take full ownership of the process. The grievance mechanism will include the following measures:

- During all the project stages, written comments in response to information disclosed for the EPGE project can be sent to EPGE office in Constanta via mail, e-mail, fax. Comments and grievances forms will be made available to the public respectively at the local administrations and on the EPGE website (for form see *Annex B*).
- All incoming inputs received by EPGE from stakeholder and the public will be recorded in a comments registry and EPGE will regularly update (monthly) through reporting on received comments and how the Project evaluates these.
- EPGE will nominate a dedicated Romanian-speaking community liaison person who will be responsible for ongoing local consultation during project preparation and later grievance response during construction and operation.
- Grievance handling for construction will be compatible with regulatory requirements and conditions as set in the permits. It is envisaged that in general, grievances, in relation to construction or operation, will be responded to within 5 working days after receipt. Should the need arise, EPGE will consider the establishment of a conflict resolution “committee” including local administration and local community representatives for the management of complex grievance issues.

The scheme regarding the typically steps for the grievance mechanism is presented below. This scheme will be applied both in the construction and implementation phases of the project.



## 6 RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITY

### 6.1 EPGE

The implementation of this SEP for the Project will be conducted and monitored by the EPGE office in Bucharest.

EPGE is represented by:

*Ms. Elsa Karpasitis*

Address: Piata Alba-Iulia no. 8, block I7; floor 1; apartment 26, Bucharest, Sector 3

Phone and fax: (+40) 21 322 66 67/ (+40) 21 322 66 69.

e-mail: [infobuc@ro.epge.com](mailto:infobuc@ro.epge.com)

### 6.2 COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Within their regulatory mandate, the Constanta LEPA and County Council will carry out the administrative steps for formal consultation in the EIA Process.

#### 6.2.1.1 Contact Details Constanta LEPA:

Address: 23 Unirii Street, Constanta City, Constanta County

Phone: (+40) 241 54 66 96

#### 6.2.1.2 Contact Details Constanta County Council:

Address: 51 Tomis Boulevard, Constanta City, Constanta County

Phone: (+40) 241 70 84 04

## REPORTING

All queries in relation to the project will be filed in the comments registry, analysed and reported by *EPGE* on a monthly basis throughout ESIA preparation and construction.

*EPGE* will constantly monitor the engagement level of their stakeholders by developing a set of indicators which will include at least the following items:

- number, type and frequency of communications
- number, type and sources of complaints;
- number of resolved complaints;
- average time for resolution of complaints;
- number of presentations on environmental, social and economic status of the company;
- number of mass media articles and / or announcements;
- number of stakeholders involved per action;
- level / degree of involvement for each stakeholder;
- number of visitors on the websites; and
- number of requests for information via websites.

A clear record of all these indicators will be kept at *EPGE* office.

Another important aspect is the way public is informed about the SEP. *EPGE* will make announcements on its website, in local mass media and at the offices of the affected municipalities about the SEP. Also, the SEP will be part of the annual environment and safety report of *EPGE*.

Annex A

## Stakeholder Contact Details

**Table 1** *List of stakeholders and contact details*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Romanian Ministry of National Defense	110, Izvor Street, 5 Sector , Bucharest  Phone: (+40) 21 319 56 60;  Fax: (+40) 21 319 58 64  Email: <a href="mailto:secretariat_general@mapn.ro">secretariat_general@mapn.ro</a>
Romanian Ministry of Administration and Interior	3, Eforie Street, 5 Sector, Bucharest  Phone: (+40) 21 315 12 48, 21 311 08 07  Fax: (+40) 21 312 44 21  Email: <a href="mailto:patrimoniul.dl@mai.gov.ro">patrimoniul.dl@mai.gov.ro</a>
Romanian Intelligence Service - Bucharest Headquarter	14D, Libertatii Boulevard, 5 Sector, Bucharest  Phone: 004 021 410 60 60  Fax: 004 021 410 25 45  Email: <a href="mailto:presa@sri.ro">presa@sri.ro</a>
Romanian Civil Aeronautic Authority	38-40, Bucuresti-Ploiesti Road, 1 Sector, Bucharest  Phone: +40 21 208 15 08  Fax: +40 21 208 15 72; +40 21 233 40 62  Email: <a href="mailto:dir.gen@caa.ro">dir.gen@caa.ro</a> , <a href="mailto:secretariat@caa.ro">secretariat@caa.ro</a>
Romanian national Power Grid Company TRANSELECTRICA – Local Branch Constanta	195A, Alexandru Lapusneanu Boulevard, Constanta City, Constanta County  Phone: +40 241 60 75 05  Fax: +40 241 60 75 50  Email: <a href="mailto:office@transelectrica.ro">office@transelectrica.ro</a>
ENEL Distributie Dobrogea	89A, Nicolae Iorga Street, Connstanta City, Connstanta County  Phone: +40 241 80 59 99, 61 80 20  Fax: +40 241 61 63 40  Email : <a href="mailto:birou.presa@enel.ro">birou.presa@enel.ro</a>

Name	Contact Details
Romanian National Gas Transport Company - TRANSGAZ	<p>1, Albastra Street, Constanta City, Constanta County</p> <p>Phone: +40 241 58 55 91, 58 02 10</p> <p>Fax: +40 241 60 72 63</p> <p>Email : <a href="mailto:regconstanta@transgaz.ro">regconstanta@transgaz.ro</a></p>
Constanta Local Environmental Protection Agency	<p>23 Unirii Street, Constanta City, Constanta County</p> <p>Phone: (+40) 24154 66 96</p> <p>Fax: (+40) 24154 65 96</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:autorizare@mediu-constant.ro">autorizare@mediu-constant.ro</a></p>
Constanta County Council	<p>51 Tomis Boulevard, Constanta City, Constanta County</p> <p>Phone: (+40) 241 70 84 04</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:consjud@cj.ro">consjud@cj.ro</a></p>
Constanta County Police Inspectorate	<p>106 Mamaia Boulevard, Constanta, Constanta County</p> <p>Phone: (+40) 241 61 13 64</p> <p>Fax: (+40) 241 61 61 50</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:cabinet@ct.politiaromana.ro">cabinet@ct.politiaromana.ro</a></p>
Local Public Health Directorate Constanta	<p>1, Lacramioarei Lane, Constanta City, Constanta County</p> <p>Phone : (+40) 241 48 09 39</p> <p>Fax: (+40) 241 48 09 46</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:secretariat@dspct.ro">secretariat@dspct.ro</a></p>
Romanian National Land Improvement Administration (NLIA), Local Branch Dobrogea, Constanta Sud Administration Unit;	<p>4, Zburatorului Street, Constanta City, Constanta County</p> <p>Phone : (+40) 241 65 40 10</p> <p>Fax: (+40) 241 65 64 98</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:anif.dr@anif.ro">anif.dr@anif.ro</a></p>

Name	Contact Details
Constanta Cadastre and Real Estate Publicity Office	<p>4, Ferdinand Boulevard, Constanta City, Constanta County</p> <p>Phone : (+40) 241 48 86 25, 48 86 26</p> <p>Fax: (+40) 241 61 78 48</p> <p>Email: ct@ancpi.ro</p>
Constanta Directorate for Culture, Religious Affairs and National Cultural Heritage of Constanta County;	<p>106, Mircea cel Batran Street, Constanta City, Constanta County</p> <p>Phone : (+40) 241 61 30 08</p> <p>Fax: (+40) 241 40 57 42</p> <p>Email: contact@constanta.djc.ro</p>
Chirnogeni Commune Council	<p>Chirnogeni Mayoralty, Chirnogeni commune, Constanta County</p> <p>Phone: (+40) 241 85 45 45</p> <p>Fax: (+40) 241 85 45 45</p> <p>Email: secretar@primaria-chirnogeni.ro</p>
Independenta Commune Council	<p>Independenta Mayoralty, Independenta commune, Constanta County</p> <p>Phone: (+40) 241 85 78 60</p> <p>Fax: (+40) 241 85 49 30</p> <p>Email: primariaindependenta@yahoo.com</p>
Cobaldin Commune Council	<p>Cobaldin Mayoralty, Cobaldin commune, Constanta County</p> <p>Phone: (+40) 241 85 51 29</p> <p>Fax: (+40) 241 85 51 29</p> <p>Primarii street no 2</p>
Murfatlar city	<p>Siminoc village, Murfatlar municipality,</p> <p>Calea Dobrogei nr. 1, cp. 905100</p> <p>Phone: (+40) 241234350</p> <p>Fax: (+40) 241 234516</p> <p>Email: consiliu-local@primaria-murfatlar.ro</p> <p>Web: <a href="http://www.primaria-murfatlar.ro">http://www.primaria-murfatlar.ro</a></p>

Name	Contact Details
Ciocarlia Commune Council	Ciocarlia Mayoralty, Ciocarlia commune, Constanta county  1 Decembrie, nr. 54  Phone: (+40) 241-875555 , 875539  Fax: (+40) 241-875555, 875539
Prefect (County Mayor of Constanta)	51, Tomis Boulevard, Constanta City, Constanta County  Post code: 900725  Phone: (+40) 241 81 77 88  Fax: (+40) 241 81 56 72
DRDP – National Company for Roads and Bridges – Constanta Office	Prelungirea Traian Street , Constanta City, Constanta County  Phone: (+40) 241 58 11 47 ; 58 15 40  0341 449 816  0745 349 334  Fax: (+40) 241 58 43 71; 341 44 98 15  email : net@drdpct.ro  <a href="http://www.drdpct.ro/">http://www.drdpct.ro/</a>
Other companies of public utilities active in the local communities from project target area (water supply company, waste management, electricity, etc.)	
Labor Inspectorate Constanta	13C , Decebal Street , Constanta City, Constanta County  Phone: (+40) 241 48 13 09, 69 12 54, 693951  Fax: (+40) 0241 69 43 17  For announcement of labor accidents: (+40) 241 48 13 58
Environmental Guard	23, Unirii Boulevard, Constanta City, Constanta County  Phone: (+40) 241 69 09 90; 241 69 85 55  Fax: (+40) 241 69 09 90  Email: cjconstanta@gnm.ro

**Table A.7.1 Non Governmental Organisations and Institutes**

Name	Contact Details
Mare Nostrum	296 Mamaia Boulevard, Constanta City  Phone: (+40) 241 61 24 22  Fax: (+40) 241 83 10 99  Email: <a href="mailto:office@mare-nostrum.ro">office@mare-nostrum.ro</a>
Oceanic Club	41 Decebal Street, Constanta City  Phone: (+40) 241 66 19 56  Fax: (+40) 341 10 15 85  Email: <a href="mailto:club@oceanic.ro">club@oceanic.ro</a>
National History and Archaeology Museum Constanta	Piata Ovidiu, no. 12; Constanta City  Phone: (+40) 341 40 87 39 (+40) 722 66 90 61  Email: <a href="mailto:parvu_jeni@yahoo.com">parvu_jeni@yahoo.com</a>
<i>Grigore Antipa</i> National Museum of Natural History	1 Kiseleff Road, Bucharest, district 1;  Phone: (+40) 21/312.88.63  Fax: (+40) 21/312.88.63  E-mail: <a href="mailto:gabriel_chisamera@antipa.ro">gabriel_chisamera@antipa.ro</a>
Romanian Bats Protection Association	2 Ion Budai Deleanu Street, Satu-Mare, Satu-Mare County  Phone: (+40) 261 711 395  Email: <a href="mailto:farkas@apl.ro">farkas@apl.ro</a>

Annex B

## Comments and Suggestions Form



**Chirnogeni Wind Farm Project**

**Comments & Suggestions Form**

Full Name, Surname

\_\_\_\_\_

<i>Reference No.</i>	
<i>Received on</i>	
<i>Received by</i>	

Contact information (*please fill in how you want to be contacted*):

Post Address    Constanta, Post Office 1, Post Office Box 103

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail

\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact:**

*Carmen Agi-Ali*

Tel./Fax: +40 (0) 241 511 241

e-mail: *infocta@ro.epge.com*

Preferred contact Language: Romanian        Other     (pls. specify) ....

Please note here your suggestions and comments concerning the planned construction of the Chirnogeni Wind Farm Project:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Please send this form back to EPGE per mail, fax, e-mail**

Annex C

## Public Consultation Leaflet



## Project Information May 2009

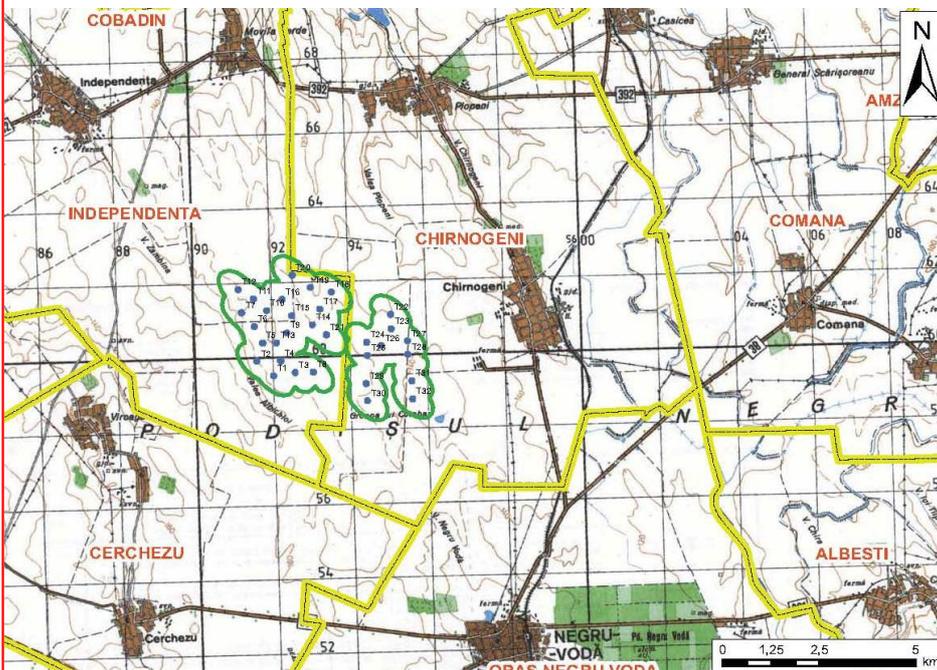
### The Chirnogeni Wind Farm Project

EP Global Energy (EPGE) is planning to develop a wind farm project which is located partly in the unincorporated agricultural fields of Independenta and Chirnogeni Communes and partly in the incorporated agricultural fields of Chirnogeni village. The project site is located 3 km to the west of Chirnogeni village and covers an area of 16.9 km<sup>2</sup>.

EPGE is a private company, part of The Paraskevaides Group, active in the power generation field with its head office in Cyprus and five regional offices (Cyprus, Greece, Albania, the United Arab Emirates and Romania: Bucharest and Constanta). Promoting the generation of electricity from renewable resources is one of the priority targets in Romania's energy strategy. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of modern times and Romania is very well suited to using its favourable wind conditions to produce power which is both economical and environmentally sound.

### Key Project Features

- installation of 32 wind turbines (2.5 MW each, total output power of 80 MW);
- construction of two Project Substations (capacity of 50 MW and 30 MW respectively), that will collect electricity produced by the Wind Farm and transmit it to the existing Chirnogeni Substation;
- the construction of a temporary construction compound;
- the upgrade of existing roads to the site and the construction of new access roads to connect the turbines;
- the installation of a network of 20 kV underground electrical connection cables on the project site to link the wind turbines to the two Project Substations;
- the construction and operation of a 110 kV Project Transmission Line of approximately 7 km to transmit electricity generated by the Wind Farm from the Project Substations to the existing Chirnogeni Substation; and
- installation of new equipment at the existing Chirnogeni Substation, without altering the existing equipment.



### Project Schedule

The Chirnogeni Wind Farm Project is expected to follow the following planning and implementation schedule:

Start of Basic Engineering and Environmental Studies	November 2008
Start of Construction	January 2010
Start of Operation	June 2011

### Key Planning and Permitting Steps:

1. EPGE will submit an Application File for the Project to LEPA Constanta for consideration.
2. LEPA Constanta will then call a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting to discuss and make a decision on whether an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required for the project, and if so what it should focus on.
3. EPGE will make a public announcement on the decision provided by the TAC.
4. EPGE will then start to prepare the EIA Report in accordance with the guidance provided by the TAC.
5. EPGE will submit the EIA Report to LEPA Constanta and the formal public consultation procedure will commence.
6. There will be an opportunity for the public to view the EIA Report and attend a Public Hearing about the project before a decision to issue the permit is made.



## Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

As part of EP Global Energy's commitment to high standards of environmental and social performance, environmental and social studies for the project will be undertaken and guided by the requirements of:

- Romanian national legislation; and
- International best practice standards such as the Equator Principles.

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is now being undertaken by independent consultants from ERM Srl. This is a process which investigates the environmental and social issues for new projects and looks at ways in which adverse effects if any, can be avoided and where possible mitigated.

The ESIA will identify, assess and communicate potential negative and positive environmental and socio-economic impacts of the construction and operation of the project and establish mitigation measures where appropriate. It will cover issues such as:

- visual impacts;
- noise;
- ecological resources; and
- land use, cultural heritage and the social environment.

***Are there local issues that you would like to make us aware of—please contact the project and share your thoughts and concerns?***



## EP Global Energy's Environmental Values

EP Global Energy is committed to best environmental performance throughout the life of the project. The Chirnogeni Wind Farm will displace 192,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, otherwise produced by a coal-fired power plant.

## Stakeholder Engagement and Public Consultation

The Chirnogeni Wind Farm Project will follow the regulatory public consultation and disclosure process in accordance with the relevant national legislation. Additional and supplementary stakeholder engagement opportunities will be provided by EPGE in line with international best practice. This is happening in two main stages:

- Scoping (May 2009)
- ESIA Review (June—July 2009)

## How can you be Involved?

EPGE invites you to participate in the ESIA process and raise your issues and concerns about the proposed project. Your comments are a key part of the assessment process and it is important that EPGE understands your concerns.

All questions and submissions can be directed to:

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## Project Information August 2011

### The Chirnogeni Wind Farm Project and the rehabilitation of the existing 110 kV high-voltage transmission line

EP Global Energy (EPGE) is planning to develop a wind farm project which is located partly in the unincorporated agricultural fields of Independenta and Chirnogeni Communes and partly in the incorporated agricultural fields of Chirnogeni village. The project site is located 2.5 km to the west of Chirnogeni village and covers an area of 16.9 km<sup>2</sup>.

Further to the wind farm itself, in order to allow connection of the wind farm to the national power distribution grid, an existing 110 kV high voltage overhead transmission line (HV line) between Chirnogeni-Cobadin-Basarabi (approximately 45 km) will be rehabilitated.

EPGE is a private company, part of The Paraskevaides Group, active in the power generation field with its head office in Cyprus and five regional offices (Cyprus, Greece, Albania, the United Arab Emirates and Romania: Bucharest and Constanta). Promoting the generation of electricity from renewable resources is one of the priority targets in Romania's energy strategy. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of modern times and Romania is very well suited to using its favourable wind conditions to produce power which is both economical and environmentally sound.

### Key Project Features

- installation of 32 wind turbines (2.5 MW each, total output power of 80 MW);
- construction of a Project Substation 20/110 kV with a capacity of 80 MW that will collect electricity produced by the Wind Farm and transmit it to the existing Chirnogeni Substation;
- the organization of a temporary construction compound;
- the construction of a permanent concrete foundation for each turbine;
- the construction of permanent crane pads;
- the upgrade of approximately 13 km of existing roads to the site and the construction of a permanent network of approximately 12 km of access roads (between the turbines and exploitation roads);
- the installation of a network of underground medium voltage (20 kV) electrical cables (approximately 26 km) to link the turbines to the Project Substations 20/110 kV;
- the construction and operation of underground transmission lines (110 kV) of 4.47 km from the Project Substation to the (existing) Chirnogeni Substation 110/20 kV which connects to the Power Distribution Grid owned by SC Enel Distribuție Dobrogea SA ("ENEL");
- rehabilitation works required for the 110/20 kV existing transformer stations (Chirnogeni, Cobadin, Basarabi);
- rehabilitation works required for the 110 kV and 20 kV overhead lines (Basarabi - Cobadin respectiv Cobadin - Chirnogeni) and the construction of a new 4.7 km underground power line in the Basarabi area, which will replace the corresponding section of the 110 kV overhead electrical lines between Cobadin - Basarabi in the area's 20 kV network.

### Project Schedule

The Project is expected to follow the following planning and implementation schedule:

Start of Basic Engineering and Environmental Studies	November 2008
Start of Construction	Early 2012
Start of Operation	Summer 2013

### Key Planning and Permitting Steps

1. EPGE submitted on June 17, 2011 an Application File for the Project to LEPA Constanta for consideration.
2. LEPA Constanta will then call a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting to discuss and make a decision on whether an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required for the project, and if so what it should focus on.
3. EPGE will make a public announcement on the decision provided by the TAC.
4. EPGE will then start to prepare the EIA Report in accordance with the guidance provided by the TAC.
5. EPGE will submit the EIA Report to LEPA Constanta and the formal public consultation procedure will commence.
6. There will be an opportunity for the public to view the EIA Report and attend a Public Hearing about the project before a decision to issue the permit is made.



## Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

As part of EP Global Energy's commitment to high standards of environmental and social performance, environmental and social studies for the project will be undertaken and guided by the requirements of:

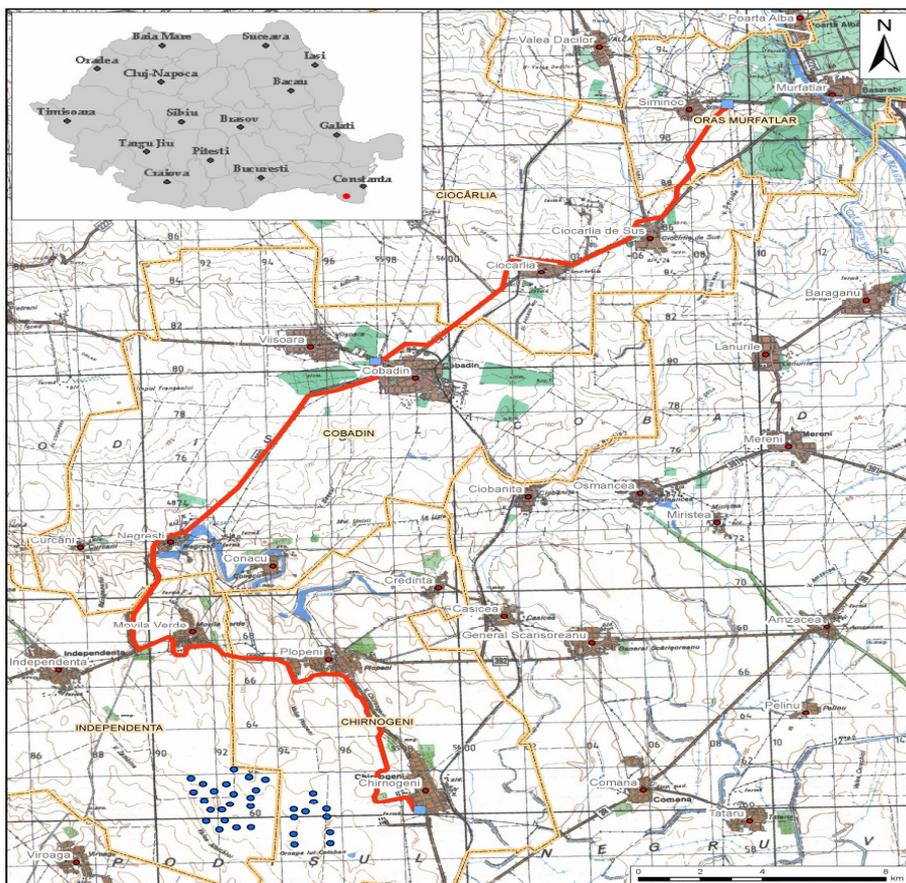
- Romanian national legislation; and
- Policies and guidelines of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was undertaken by independent consultants from SC Environmental Resources Management ERM SRL. This is a process which investigates the environmental and social issues for new projects and looks at ways in which adverse effects if any, can be avoided and where possible mitigated.

The ESIA identified and assessed potential negative and positive environmental and socio-economic impacts of the construction and operation of the project and established mitigation measures where appropriate. The assessment covered issues such as:

- visual impacts;
- noise;
- ecological and nature conservation; and
- land use, cultural heritage and the social environment.

***Are there local issues that you would like to make us aware of—please contact the project and share your thoughts and con-***



## EP Global Energy's Environmental Values

EP Global Energy is committed to best environmental performance throughout the life of the project. The Chirnoieni Wind Farm will displace 192,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, otherwise produced by a coal-fired power plant.

## Stakeholder Engagement and Public Consultation

The Project follows the regulatory public consultation and disclosure process in accordance with the relevant national legislation. Additional and supplementary stakeholder engagement opportunities will be provided by EPGE in line with international best practice. This is happening in two main stages:

- Scoping (already conducted in May 2009)
- ESIA Review (August 2011)

## How can you be Involved?

EPGE invites you to participate in the ESIA process and raise your issues and concerns about the proposed project. Your comments are a key part of the assessment process and it is important that EPGE understands your concerns.

All questions and submissions can be directed to:

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Annex D

## Minutes of Consultation Meetings with local government authorities and public

<b>Subject/Reference</b>	Meeting with representatives of the Local Environmental Protection Agency (LEPA) Constanța
<b>Venue</b>	LEPA Constanța office, 23 Unirii Street, Constanța
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	03 November 2008
<b>Participants</b>	Catiușa Tompoș (LEPA Constanța), Romeo Popescu (EP), William Galton (PowerCorp), Sean Miller (EP), Dana Afrenie (ERM), Silviu Harabagiu (ERM), Lauren Osmond (ERM)
<b>Date</b>	3 November 2008

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**ACTION**

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**1. Introductions & Background (RP)**

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Mr. Popescu gave an introduction to EP Global Energy and the Project.

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**2. Discussion**

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- When requesting the Urban Certificate for the land within the project site boundary for the turbine footprint it is very important to provide as much information as possible. This will ensure that the most appropriate and favourable UC is issued. This would stipulate that both a PUZ and Construction Permit (PAC) are required for construction approval (and that an additional ‘Strategic Environmental Assessment’ (SEA) will not be required).
- The request for the UC should include all project components (including substation, roads, overhead power lines etc.).
- Should an SEA be required then the competent authority is REPA Galați (not LEPA Constanța).
- 32 wind farm projects have been registered in the Dobrogea region; however, only two of these have received Environmental Agreements. This is due to lack of information provided or budgeting rather than authorities and public objection.
- Baseline surveys are most likely to include noise, birds, flora & fauna – including invertebrates in particular if the area is bird habitat, shadow flicker, Natura 2000 site identification etc.
- It is necessary for the ESIA Report to contain the final footprint of the wind turbines within the project site boundary. Any significant changes could require for the ESIA Report (and associated studies) to be revised, however, small alterations within the site boundary should not be an issue.
- The local people are generally in favour of wind farm projects in the region as there is the potential for employment and 2% of the tax that the proponent will pay will be fed directly to the local council. This in turn will benefit the local economy and infrastructure etc.
- LEPA was not able to provide information on other projects in the

region. However, there are two wind farms that have been approved in the region that have EIA Reports. Upon filling out the relevant forms and presenting them, these documents can be viewed.

- LEPA could not confirm the procedure for the PUZ and recommended that the project visit the County Council to obtain further information.
  - LEPA confirmed that it is acceptable to combine both the first and second TAC Meeting.
  - LEPA recommended that when obtaining permits and certificates that a project representative goes in person to do this.
  - Based on internal discussions with REPA Galati and NEPA, the decision has been made to always request an EIA Report for a wind farm project.
  - EP Global Energy must provide evidence that they own/lease all the land within the project site boundary by the time of the public hearing.
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<b>Subject/Reference</b>	Meeting with representatives of Constanța County Council (CCC)
<b>Venue</b>	Constanța County Council office, Urbanism Department, 51 Tomis Boulevard, Constanța
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	3 November 2008
<b>Participants</b>	Mrs. Dragoș (Constanța County Council), Dana Afrenie (ERM), Silviu Harabagiu (ERM)
<b>Date</b>	3 November 2008

In order to request/apply for the **Urban Certificate**, the following documents are required:

- **Site Map:** showing all parcels of land to be included within the project site boundary. These need to be stamped and signed by the *Cadastral Authority* (OCPI)
- **Site Layout Plan:** showing the anticipated location of the project components.
- **Zoning Plan:** showing the distances from the closest residential areas/properties, distances from infrastructure such as overhead lines, gas pipelines etc.
- **Opportunity Study:** This is a new requirement from a recent change in Law 350/2008. This study should describe the reasons as to why the site in question has been chosen for the project (the results of feasibility studies etc). There are two ways which were described with regard to the submission of this study as follows:
  - submit to the relevant commune councils and obtain a principle approval for the project; or
  - submit the study directly to the CCC along with the request/application for the UC (as a supporting document).
- **Technical Memorandum:** This is a brief project description to include height, foundation details, turbine capacity etc. This description should be drafted by EP – ERM will provide details of the information to be included.
- **Form/Fiche:** cover letter to which all the above relevant documentation should be attached.

<b>Subject/Ref</b>	Chirnogeni Wind Farm – Early scoping consultation meeting
<b>Venue</b>	Independenta Community Centre, Independenta Commune, Constanta County
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Saturday 30 May 2009, between 16.30 – 17.30
<b>Attendees</b>	Ionel David (EPGE), Sean Miller (EPGE), Silviu Harabagiu (ERM), Dana Afrenie (ERM), Iulia Luta (ERM), Cristea Gascan (Mayor of Independenta Commune) and 34 villagers
<b>Distribution</b>	EPGE and ERM
<b>Date</b>	2 June 2009

## INTRODUCTION

The consultation meeting started at 16.30 in the afternoon. 34 villagers, out of which 30 men and 4 women responded to the invitations sent by the developer. 5 of the participants were people over 60 years old, 25 were between 15-59 years and 4 were younger than 15.

Mr. Silviu Harabagiu of ERM gave a 15-minute presentation of the Project and explained the basics of the ESIA and Public Consultation Processes. The presentation and all associated discussions were carried out in Romanian language.

## QUESTION ASKED BY THE PUBLIC ANSWER PROVIDED

- If you implement this Project will we pay lower prices for electricity?*

Mr. Ionel David, Director of EPGE Constanta: *The energy produced by the wind farm will be entirely transmitted into the National Power Grid. The inhabitants of Independenta Commune will not be the direct beneficiaries of this energy and therefore the current price of electricity will not be lowered. The community of Independenta will have however other benefits from this Project.*
- What will be the benefits for our commune?*

As part of the project, EPGE will instal la total of 32 turbines, out of which 20 turbines on the lands within Independenta Commune and 12 on the lands within Chirnogeni Commune. For the 20 turbines within Independenta, EPGE will need to pay taxes to the local commune budget. This money will be used as best considered by the Local Council to respond to the needs of the commune: rehabilitate the community centre and commune roads, buy books for the library etc. Moreover, during construction EPGE will need unskilled manpower and will try to employ it locally.

*Also, another benefit from this project is that the prices EPGE has paid to*

*purchase the lands were well above the current market price for land in the area.*

- *When will the construction works be conducted?* Mr. Ionel David replied: *EPGE will start construction works after obtaining all the necessary permits to allow us to construct. EPGE are aiming to start towards end of 2009 or beginning of 2010 so that the wind farm can start to produce electricity in 2011.*
- *What will be the distance between turbines?* *There will be a 400 m distance between turbines.*
- *What type of cables will connect the wind farm to the Power Grid?* *The electricity produced by the wind farm will be transferred to the existing Chirnogeni Substation via an overhead transmission line (110 kV) which will be constructed by EPGE. Further on, the electricity will be transferred into the Power Grid via existing overhead lines which are currently operating at 20 kV. The developer will upgrade this lines to be able to operate at their original maximum voltage of 110 kV.*
- *What happens if we subscribe to this energy and the wind stops blowing in the region?* *Actually, the inhabitants of Independenta Commune will not need to subscribe to this energy as it will be transmitted directly into the National Power Grid and not to domestic consumers. The energy supply will remain unchanged; this is also the reason why you will pay the same prices. Therefore, there is no need to fear that if the wind stops blowing will not have any electricity in homes. Moreover, studies which have conducted measuring wind parameters have concluded that the wind blows 360 days per year in Dobrogea.*
- *Will farming activities still be allowed on the lands within the wind farm?* *Farming activities will continue to be allowed on the land which is not necessary for operation and maintenance of the wind farm, once construction works are completed. Farming activities will only cease on the areas used to construct turbine foundations. These, however, we continue to generate income to the local budget by means of taxes we will need to pay.*
- *What will be the height of the turbines?* *The turbines have a hub height of 100 m and the total height up to the top of the blades will be 145 m.*
- *Why will there be only 80 MW?* *This is the maximum power permitted by ENEL and Transelectrica because the existing Chirnogeni substation can only transmit 80 MW into the National Power Grid. For this, we will need to perform upgrading works to this substation without affecting the existing equipment. We will also need to upgrade the existing overhead lines from the existing Chirnogeni substation to Cobadin and Basarabi.*

<b>Subject/Ref</b>	Chirnogeni Wind Farm – Early scoping consultation meeting
<b>Venue</b>	Chirnogeni Community Centre, Chirnogeni Commune, Constanta County
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Sunday 31 May 2009, between 11.00 – 12.00
<b>Attendees</b>	Ionel David (EPGE), Silviu Harabagiu (ERM), Dana Afrenie (ERM), Iulia Luta (ERM), Gheorghe Manta (Mayor of Chirnogeni Commune) and 33 villagers
<b>Distribution</b>	EPGE and ERM
<b>Date</b>	2 June 2009

## INTRODUCTION

The consultation meeting started at 11.00 in the morning. 33 villagers, out of which 30 men and 3 women responded to the invitations sent by the developer. 8 of the participants were people over 60 years old and the remaining were between 15-59 years.

Mr. Silviu Harabagiu of ERM gave a 15-minute presentation of the Project and explained the basics of the ESIA and Public Consultation Processes. The presentation and all associated discussions were carried out in Romanian language.

## QUESTION ASKED BY THE PUBLIC

- The Mayor of Chirnogeni took the lead: *I would expect that at least 20% of the construction manpower could be employed from Chirnogeni Commune?*
- The Mayor continued: *Is there a possibility to facilitate Chirnogeni Commune the use of a small percent of the energy produced for street lighting?*
- *What benefits will this project bring to our commune?*

## ANSWER PROVIDED

Mr. Ionel David, Director of EPGE Constanta, explained: *EPGE has already considered to employ local manpower for construction but the actual percentage will be discussed when construction details are in a more advanced stage.*

Mr. Ionel David replied: *The energy produced by the wind farm will be transmitted into the National Power Grid. Further arrangements on the matter raised will be discussed with the Local Commune Council but no commitments can be made at this moment.*

A couple of benefits were presented to the villagers:

- *EPGE is the only wind energy company which has a registered office headquarter in Chirnogeni, the commune where it will*

*operate. This approach has been taken in order to pay the necessary taxes and fees to the local commune budget. Consequently, a part of EPGE's profit will benefit the local community. The Mayoralty will be able to use the money from the contributions made by EPGE to buy new desks for the schools, renovate community facilities, rehabilitate commune roads etc;*

- *The exploitation roads will be upgraded.*

- *When will the construction works be conducted?* Mr. Ionel David replied: *EPGE will start construction works after obtaining all the necessary permits to allow us to construct. Furthermore, EPGE will be careful not to affect the planting and harvesting processes and will therefore consult the farmers with regard to an appropriate time to begin the construction of foundations and rehabilitation of roads. As far as turbines are concerned, it takes 3-4 days to install a turbine on fine weather and 7 days if the weather is moody. Therefore, all 12 turbines which will be installed on the lands within Chirnogeni Commune will be erected in approximately 9 weeks and will not affect the farmers' crops.*
- *Besides the noise impact, can you tell us which other negative impacts may be associated to the proposed Project?* *The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) which is being conducted will investigate potential negative and positive impacts of the Project and where possible will try to mitigate any adverse impacts identified. The ESIA will focus on areas like: land acquisition, cultural heritage, social impact, shadow flicker, noise, increased traffic and dust levels during construction, employment opportunities etc.*
- *Can you install additional turbines on our lands?* Mr. Ionel David replied: *EPGE intend to develop other wind farms in the area in the future. For the moment, EPGE cannot install more than 32 turbines, out of which 12 within Chirnogeni and 20 within Independenta, because the existing Chirnogeni substation cannot transfer more than 80 MW into the National Power Grid. Even for this Project,*

*EPGE will need to perform works to upgrade this substation in order to be able to operate at full capacity and further transmit the energy produced by the wind farm. In the future EPGE intend to develop other wind farms in Constanta county, in villages like Mereni, Cobadin, Ciocarlia or towns like Negru Voda.*

- *What is the power of each turbine?*

*Each of the 32 turbines will have a rated power of 2.5 MW resulting in a total output power of 80 MW for the wind farm. EPGE will need to comply with many indicators required by the ANRE (Romanian Energy Regulatory Authority) in order to “label” the energy produced by the wind farm. EPGE hope to be producing energy by 2011 but only after completing the necessary construction works and operational tests for the turbines.*

- *For the future wind farms you intend to develop, you will take the same approach of buying the land necessary for the Project?*

*EPGE will take the same approach because the implementation of such projects requires financing from financial institutions such as banks. These banks are more confident to finance Projects developed on land areas owned by the developer. Additionally, it is more economically feasible than paying rent for the plots used by the wind farm. Also, another benefit from this approach is that the prices EPGE has paid to purchase the lands were well above the market price for land in the area.*

- *Will farming activities still be allowed on the lands within the wind farm?*

*Sales agreements allow farming activities to be continued on the lands purchased by EPGE, except the parts occupied by the turbine foundations.*

*Some of the owners from whom EPGE have bought larger plots, out of which EPGE will only use a small area, can confirm that sales agreements allowed them to further lease the land to agricultural operators and benefit from the harvest or farm it themselves.*

<b>Subject/Ref</b>	Chirnogeni Wind Farm and rehabilitation of the existing 110 kV High Voltage Line – public consultation meeting to disclose the draft version of both ESIAs
<b>Venue</b>	Chirnogeni Community Center, Chirnogeni, Constanța County
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Saturday, 06 August 2011 between 10.00 – 11.30
<b>Attendees</b>	Athanasios Efkarpidis (EPGE), Carmen Agi-Ali (EPGE), Silviu Harabagiu (ERM), Dana Afrenie (ERM), Iulia Luță (ERM), Florin Tudor (ERM), Gheorghe Manta (Mayor of Chirnogeni Commune) and 23 villagers
<b>Distribution</b>	EPGE and ERM
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	06 August 2011

## INTRODUCTION

The consultation meeting started at 10.00 in the morning. 23 villagers, out of which 17 men and 6 women. 17 people were people over 60 years old, 6 people were between 18 and 59 years old. Mr. Silviu Harabagiu of ERM made a 45-minute presentation of the Project and explained the basics of the ESIA and Public Consultation Processes. The presentation and all associated discussions were carried out in Romanian language.

## QUESTION ASKED BY THE PUBLIC

- Mayor opened the round of discussion: *“What recommendations were made concerning the management of yellow earth (clay) to be excavated for the construction of*

## ANSWER PROVIDED

Mr. Silviu Harabagiu, ERM: *EPGE will consult local authorities to identify any locations where the filler can be stored. No topsoil will be cleared for storage of the filler.*

*turbine foundations? Quantities will be very high; any agricultural land affected by storage of the filler?"*

- *Mayor continued: "What measures were recommended to avoid the mixing of the excavated clay with the topsoil?"*

- *What do you mean by "local procurement will be made during construction?"*

- *Any local manpower will be used in the Project?*

- *You are the company, which in 2009 was involved in land lease for a wind farm project? They took copies after our documents but the approach has not been completed.*

- *Mrs. Eugenia Serban: In order to achieve onsite geological survey, existing maize crops were damaged. Land is worked by the agricultural association Agrochem. Who will pay compensation for the damaged crops?*

- *What is the degree of seismic withstand for turbines in case of an earthquake?*

- *The project affects utility aviation? Can be applied further treatments to crop?*

*Mr. Athanasios Efkarpidis, project manager EPGE: a large amount of filler will be required for the construction of the access and exploitation roads for the wind farm. In this regard, we will use the materials resulted from excavations. Consequently, no additional topsoil will be cleared for the storage of the filler.*

*The different types of soil will be stored separately. Topsoil resulted after clearance activities will be used only for agricultural purpose and if no other solution will be found – spreading on low quality agricultural plot is an option.*

*All these measures are included in the management plan.*

*During the construction period, the workers would buy goods for personal use from the local market.*

*For the construction of the wind farm, approximately 30% of manpower (15 persons) can be hired from local source, if available.*

*Explanation came from Mr. Mayor: This is another developer who intends to undertake a similar project in the east part of the village. This company is currently in the design phase and has not started procedures for obtaining necessary approvals. EPGE will construct the wind farm in the western part of Chirnojeni village, where 11 turbines will be installed.*

*Mr. Efkarpidis: We need to know the exact number of plot and the affected area (indication - it is the second field of the channel, a width of 6 m) and will determine the appropriate compensatory measures. Also, EPGE is in the process to prepare and implement an external grievance mechanism for address all complains. Additionally, a procedure for compensation will be prepared.*

*Turbine design has taken into account the seismicity degree specific for the local area.*

*Romanian Civil Aeronautical Authority was contacted, from which we obtained the necessary approvals. There will be no impact on the activities for crop maintenance.*

- The current energy system is not working in terms of efficiency. These turbines are efficient? Cover their investment?*

*As required by ENEL, the quality of power generated must meet the national standards to be transferred to it. Wind turbines have a power factor close to 1, meaning a degree of efficiency of approximately 95%.*
- What are the benefits for our community?*

*Chirnojeni substation will be rehabilitated, so the efficiency will increase (the number of power failure will reduce). Other benefits associated with the project implementation are: rehabilitation of the existing exploitation road systems, building a new network of access roads, paid taxes to the local budget of the commune.*
- Mr. Mayor again: Some disadvantage will manifest in land use, because after construction of the access roads, the plots are more fragmented. Agricultural works will take place with a greater difficulty, since merging will not be possible.*

*In order to prevent this, the Developer has designed the roads and other technical surfaces as for reducing fragmentation and land use change. For this, to reduce the negative impact, roads will have a width of 4 m, although the building standards and permits allow the construction of the roads with 9-10 m width.*

<b>Subject/Ref</b>	Chirnogeni Wind Farm and rehabilitation of the existing 110 kV High Voltage Line – public consultation meeting to disclose the draft version of both ESIAs
<b>Venue</b>	Cobadin Community Center, Cobadin, Constanța County
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Sunday, 07 August 2011 between 14.00 – 15.00
<b>Attendees</b>	Athanasios Efkarpidis (EPGE), Carmen Agi-Ali (EPGE), Silviu Harabagiu (ERM), Dana Afrenie (ERM), Iulia Luță (ERM), Florin Tudor (ERM) and 12 villagers
<b>Distribution</b>	EPGE and ERM
<b>Date</b>	08 August 2011

## INTRODUCTION

The consultation meeting started at 14.00 in the afternoon. 12 villagers followed the invitation of the Developer, including 3 women and 9 men.

Four of the participants fall within the age of 60 years and another six were aged between 18 and 59 years. Also, 2 participants were under 15 years. Mr. Silviu Harabagiu of ERM made a presentation of the Project for approximately 30-minute and explained the basics of the ESIA and Public Consultation Processes. The presentation and all associated discussions were carried out in Romanian language.

## QUESTION ASKED BY THE PUBLIC

- *Any turbine will be built on my land? Or my land could be affected by construction activities?*
- *Do I get insurance for a possible situation where I would allow any crossing of the equipment on my land, and my neighbors*

## ANSWER PROVIDED

*All plots necessary for the construction of the Chirnogeni Wind Farm 80 MW as well as those adjacent to these, which are likely to be affected by the implementation of the project (during pre-construction, construction, operation, decommissioning) were purchased by EPGE from local owners. Therefore, your land should not be affected by any component of the wind farm. If these situations will occur, please immediately announce Ms. Carmen Agi-Ali, at contact details provided in the invitation.*

*EPGE acquired all the plots needed to construct the wind farm. Therefore, it is unlikely that you have to give permission to use your land in the construction*

*would be affected by this I will be sued?*

- *How can we take direct advantage because you will implement the project - will we pay lower price for electricity?*

*phase. However, you will not need any assurance in this regard.*

*The price for electricity will not be lowered for you because we will construct the wind farm. However, since the price of fossil fuels is growing, it is anticipated that long-term use of renewable energy generates a reduction/capping in kWh tariffs.*

<b>Subject/Ref</b>	Chirnogeni Wind Farm and rehabilitation of the existing 110 kV High Voltage Line – public consultation meeting to disclose the draft version of both ESIA's
<b>Venue</b>	Independența Community Center, Chirnogeni, Constanța County
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Saturday, 06 August 2011 between 14.00 – 15.00
<b>Attendees</b>	Athanasios Efkarpidis (EPGE), Carmen Agi-Ali (EPGE), Silviu Harabagiu (ERM), Dana Afrenie (ERM), Iulia Luță (ERM), Florin Tudor (ERM) and 4 villagers
<b>Distribution</b>	EPGE and ERM
<b>Date</b>	08 August 2011

## INTRODUCTION

The consultation meeting started at 14.00 in the afternoon. 4 villagers, out of which 3 men and 1 women. 2 people were over 60 years old, 2 people were between 18 and 59 years old. Mr. Silviu Harabagiu of ERM gave a 45-minute presentation of the Project and explained the basics of the ESIA and Public Consultation Processes. The presentation and all associated discussions were carried out in Romanian language.

## QUESTION ASKED BY THE PUBLIC

## ANSWER PROVIDED

- After the construction of the wind farm, we will pay lower price electricity? Will be the price influenced?*

Mr. Athanasios Efkarpidis, EPGE project manager: *Electricity which will be produced by the Chirnogeni wind farm will be entirely transmitted to the national power grid. Independența's inhabitants will not be direct beneficiaries of such electricity, so the price paid currently for this utility will not decrease. As already presented, Independența commune will benefit from the project in other ways (rehabilitation of existing exploitation road network, construction of a new access road network, employment opportunities, taxes to local budget).*

<b>Subject/Ref</b>	Chirnogeni Wind Farm and rehabilitation of the existing 110 kV High Voltage Line – public consultation meeting to disclose the draft version of both ESIAs
<b>Venue</b>	Constanța, Constanța County
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Monday, 08 August 2011 between 13.30 – 14.30
<b>Attendees</b>	Răzvan Popescu-Mirceni (Oceanic Club), Raluca-Adina Fabian (Oceanic Club), Silviu Harabagiu (ERM), Dana Afrenie (ERM), Iulia Luță (ERM), și Florin Tudor (ERM)
<b>Distribution</b>	EPGE and ERM
<b>Date</b>	08 August 2011

## INTRODUCTION

The meeting began at 13.30 in the afternoon. NGO Oceanic Club was contacted and invited to 6-7 August 2011 presentations. However, the program allowed them to follow the invitation only on 8 August 2011.

Mrs. Dana Afrenie, ERM company representative, gave a presentation about 30 minutes; participants were provided information about the project, documents prepared by ERM and stakeholder consultation process. The presentation and all associated discussions were carried out in Romanian language.

## QUESTION ASKED BY THE PUBLIC

- In what season of the year the works for the new 4.7 km underground transmission line will be conducted, since Natura 2000 ROSCI 0083 Fântânița Murfatlar site is near by?*
- Did LEPA Constanța request an appropriate assessment to be prepared for the project?*

## ANSWER PROVIDED

*There were recommendations that the work should not be conducted during the nesting and hibernation session. In case this is unavoidable, an ecologist expert will investigate the site to identify potential nesting and hibernation areas. Also, an expert ecologist will be present in the field and supervise the construction of the 4.7 km underground transmission line.*

*No appropriate assessment has been requested by LEPA Constanta to be conducted for this project. However, the methodology required for this assessment was considered in the preparation of this ESIA.*

Note: Ocean Club representatives expressed their appreciation regarding the activity undertaken and methodology used for the assessing the potential impacts of the Project over archeological sites.

<b>Subject/Ref</b>	Chirnogeni Wind Farm and rehabilitation of the existing 110 kV High Voltage Line – public consultation meeting to disclose the draft version of both ESIAs
<b>Venue</b>	Siminoc Community Center, Siminoc, Constanța County
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Sunday, 07 August 2011 between 10.00 – 11.00
<b>Attendees</b>	Athanasios Efkarpidis (EPGE), Carmen Agi-Ali (EPGE), Silviu Harabagiu (ERM), Dana Afrenie (ERM), Iulia Luță (ERM), Florin Tudor (ERM) and 22 villagers
<b>Distribution</b>	EPGE and ERM
<b>Date</b>	08 August 2011

## INTRODUCTION

The consultation meeting started at 10.00 in the morning. 22 men villagers followed the invitation, in which 16 were over 60 years old and 6 were between 18 and 59 years old.

Mr. Silviu Harabagiu of ERM gave a 45-minute presentation of the Project and explained the basics of the ESIA and Public Consultation Processes. The presentation and all associated discussions were carried out in Romanian language.

## QUESTION ASKED BY THE PUBLIC

- *Way should we be affected by the implementation of the Project?*

## ANSWER PROVIDED

*As we presented, EPGE will construct a wind farm in Chirnogeni and Independența communes. In order to transfer the energy produced into the national grid owned by ENEL, the 110 kV existing overhead transmission line need to be rehabilitated. Additionally, the existing Chirnogeni, Cobadin and Siminoc substations will be rehabilitated. The purpose of our meeting is just to inform you about these works, to present how it could affect you, answer your questions and collect your complains/commnets.*

- You come to take our land, as it happened for the construction of the highway?*

*We are here not to purchase new lands or for expropriation. EPGE doesn't represent the Romanian State but a private company that purchased all the lands that are necessary for the Project, at a price established by the market. Land acquisition was made based on sale contract, all the amounts set out therein were already paid.*
- In this case, can you place some turbines on our land? If your offer is good we are willing to sell it!*

*Currently, EPGE is intended to construct only the wind farm in Chirnoieni. Certainly, however, other developers might be interested in developing other similar projects in your area. Also seems Mulfatlar City is planning such a project.*
- After the construction of the Wind Farm, we will pay lower price for electricity? The price of the electricity distributed to local population will be influenced?*

*Electricity which will be produced by the Chirnoieni wind farm will be entirely transmitted to the national power grid. Siminoc villagers will not be direct beneficiaries of this energy and therefore the price paid currently for this utility will not be lowered. As already presented, the village of Siminoc will have other benefits from the project (rehabilitation of 110 kV overhead transmission line and of the existing electrical substation, the construction of a new underground transmission line and employment opportunities).*