



December 14, 2016

Minister Zeev Elkin
Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection
Jerusalem

Dear Minister Elkin:

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) is proposing to provide insurance to Noble's Leviathan project which will develop and operate the offshore Leviathan gas field and the associated platform, pipelines and other infrastructure. The Leviathan project will supply gas to Israeli Natural Gas Limited for sale in Israel and for export to Jordan and Egypt.

OPIC is an agency of the United States Government with a mandate to encourage and support U.S. private sector investments in projects considered a foreign policy priority by the U.S. Government. All OPIC-supported projects must be economically and environmentally sound. OPIC is required by U.S. law to notify appropriate governmental authorities of investments under consideration for OPIC assistance that have the potential to pose significant consequences for the environment.

OPIC also is required by U.S. law to provide your government with information about standards and guidelines that have been developed by international organizations and by federal environmental regulatory authorities of the United States and that are applicable to such investments. OPIC applies guidelines and standards established by the World Bank Group and other similar international organizations. The web site links to these relevant guidelines are attached to this letter.

According to the documentation submitted by Noble, the key areas of environmental and social concern are related to: safety from well-blowouts and fire; impacts on biodiversity and cultural heritage; impacts on local infrastructure; air emissions; integrity of marine ecosystems from gas field development and operations; wastewater and effluent discharges and their impact on sea; offshore disposal of drilling muds; onshore disposal of solid and hazardous wastes; hazardous materials management; oil (condensate and diesel) spills; occupational health and safety; and cumulative impact management. Primary social impacts include livelihood restoration of the impacted fishermen and community health, safety, and security due to increased activity at the coastal valve station and along the pipeline corridor.

Our analysis confirms that the Project has been designed to minimize social and environmental impacts. The Project will use internationally accepted environmental and social management practices to mitigate potential impacts to acceptable levels. Based on information provided by Noble, the Project does not appear to pose a significant hazard to the environment, public health, and safety.

We understand, of course, that the Project will be subject to the laws of Israel with regard to protection of the environment, public health, and safety.

If you have any questions about OPIC's environmental and social assessment of this Project, you may contact Mary Boomgard, Managing Director, Environmental Impact Analysis Group, at the below address or at Mary.Boomgard@opic.gov.

Respectfully yours,



Meryll Burpoe
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Cc: Ilan Nissim, Head, Environment Division, Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy & Water Resources

Attachment

Applicable U.S. and International Standards and Guidelines

- (1) International Finance Corporation's Performance Standards:
http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/115482804a0255db96fbffd1a5d13d27/PS_English_2012_Full-Documents.pdf?MOD=AJPERES
- (2) International Finance Corporation's General Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines:
<http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/554e8d80488658e4b76af76a6515bb18/Final%2B-%2BGeneral%2BEHS%2BGuidelines.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>
- (3) International Finance Corporation's General Environmental, Health and Safety Offshore Oil and Gas Development (2007) Guidelines:
http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/f3a7f38048cb251ea609b76bcf395ce1/FINAL_June+2015_Offshore+Oil+and+Gas_EHS+Guideline.pdf?MOD=AJPERES
- (4) International Finance Corporation's General Environmental, Health and Safety Onshore Oil and Gas Development (2007) Guidelines:
<http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/4504dd0048855253ab44fb6a6515bb18/Final%2B-%2BOnshore%2BOil%2Band%2BGas%2BDevelopment.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&id=1323153172270>