



March 7, 2017

H.E. Dr. Yassin Khayyat
Ministry of Environment
Amman - Jordan

Dear Minister Khayyat:

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) is proposing to provide insurance to Noble Energy Mediterranean Ltd. who, through its subsidiary, NBL Jordan Marketing Limited (NBL), will export gas to the National Electric Power Company (NEPCO) in Jordan. NBL will transfer gas to NEPCO at the Jordanian border from where it will be transported in the as yet-to-be constructed pipeline connecting to the existing FAJR gas supply network.

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 that are applicable to such investments. OPIC applies guidelines and standards established by the World Bank Group and other similar international organizations for the assessment of such projects. The web site links to these relevant guidelines are attached to this letter.

According to the Natural Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) between NEPCO and NBL, NEPCO will construct and operate the pipeline and other associated facilities used to transfer gas from the border to the existing FAJR supply network in accordance with the standards of a reasonable and prudent operator. We anticipate that NEPCO, as a reasonable and prudent operator of a pipeline project, will use internationally accepted environmental and social management practices to mitigate potential impacts to acceptable levels. OPIC notes that the environmental and social concerns frequently associated with pipeline projects are related to: safety from fire and explosion which may result from gas leaks; impacts on biodiversity and cultural heritage during pipeline construction; occupational health and safety impacts; overall impacts on infrastructure; and cumulative impacts. Primary social impacts include livelihood restoration of the impacted persons along the pipeline right-of-way and impacts on community health, safety, and security due to increased activity along the pipeline corridor.



We understand, of course, that NEPCO's activities and projects will be subject to the laws of Jordan with regard to protection of the environment, public health, and safety.

If you have any questions about OPIC's environmental and social assessment of NBL's gas exports to NEPCO, 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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Office of Investment Policy

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Cc: H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Saif, Minister of Energy and Mineral 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-Document.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 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>