

Initial Project Summary

Project Locations: Samawa and Dhiqar, Iraq

Name of Applicant: Ministry of Electricity

Name of the Project: Samawa and Dhiqar Combined Cycle Add On Power Plants

Project Description: The Project involves the construction and operation of two thermal power plants each with a gross capacity to generate 750 mega Watts of electricity (MW_e). One of the power plants will be located in Samawa and the other in Nasiriyah (Dhiqar) in southern Iraq. Samawa is approximately 293 kilometers (km) northwest of Basra and Nasiriyah (Dhiqar) is 200 km northwest of Basra. Each power plant consists of four combustion turbines (with a gross capacity of 4 x 125 MW_e) and one steam turbine (with a gross capacity of 236.1 MW_e). Samawa will require a 16-km transmission line for connecting to the local electricity grid. Dhiqar will require a short, less than 2.5 km in length, transmission line. Both the transmission lines will be located in existing right-of-ways. The main fuel for both the power plants will be natural gas. Natural gas for each of the power plants will be delivered by the existing gas pipeline network and will require connecting pipelines of less than 1.5 km in length. Light Distillate Oil as backup fuel will be trucked to each power plant. The Dhiqar plant will also use crude oil as backup fuel, which will be supplied by a nearby crude oil pipeline. The Samawa plant will also use Heavy Fuel Oil as backup fuel, which will be supplied by a nearby Heavy Fuel Oil pipeline. Each of the power plants will be supplied by water from the Euphrates River using existing canals. Dhiqar plant will construct a new intake structure. Samawa plant will use existing intake structure. Both of the plants will use air coolers and water will only be used for steam generation, NOX abatement and other uses at the plants. The Samawa Plant is located on a 500,000 square meter plot of land near a petroleum refinery and has a few residential neighborhoods in its immediate vicinity. The Dhiqar plant is located on a 300,000 square meter plot of land, is in a rural area along a national highway and the Baghdad-Basra rail line and near a thermal power plant and has four small villages in its immediate vicinity.

Environment and Social Categorization and Rationale: The Project has been reviewed against OPIC's categorical prohibitions and determined to be categorically eligible. The Project is screened as Category A because projected greenhouse gas emissions exceed 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_{2eq}) annually. The primary environmental and social issues associated with both the thermal power plants are: air emissions (especially nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, and particulate matter) and ambient air quality impacts; water usage and surface water quality impacts from the discharge of wastewaters; waste disposal; process safety hazards associated with the handling of natural gas and other petroleum (inflammable) products, occupational, health and safety during both construction and operations; life and fire safety; influx of construction workers; noise; and traffic impacts both during construction and operation of the power plants.

Environmental and Social Standards: International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Performance Standards (January 2012) 1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts), 2 (Labor and Working Conditions), 3 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention), 4 (Community Health, Safety, and Security), and 6 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources) are triggered by the Project. The Project does not involve any involuntary resettlement or impacts on Indigenous Peoples, or cultural heritage as defined by the IFC. Therefore, Performance Standards (P.S.) 5, 7, and 8 are not triggered by this Project at this time. Guidelines applicable to the Project include the IFC's Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) General Guidelines (April 2007), IFC's Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Electric Power Transmission and Distribution (April 30, 2007) and the IFC's Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Thermal Power Plants (December 19, 2008).

Location of Local Access to Project Information:

Ministry of Electricity / General Directorate for Gas Power Plants Projects
NILE QUARTER BORSAEED STEET – BAGHDAD / IRAQ

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