



**Slovenská elektrizačná prenosová sústava a.s.**  
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# **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**



**For the Environmental Impact  
Assessment of the Proposed Activity**

**Power transmission line  
rated 2x400 kV  
KRIŽOVANY -- BYSTRICANY - HORNÁ ŽIDAŇA**

April 2013

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) provides information on possibilities for engaging stakeholders (municipalities, public authorities, organisations and general public) in the process of environmental impact assessment of the proposed activity. SEP has been elaborated for the EIA process of the proposed construction of overhead extra high-voltage power line 2x400 kV in routing Križovany nad Váhom - Bystričany – Horná Ždaňa.

The SEP takes account both of the international and national legislation, previous experience in disclosure of information and engagement of stakeholders in the EIA process. It provides an overview of the previous engagement of stakeholders, as well as measures that have been or will be taken by the proponent if necessary.

The main purpose of the SEP is a successful realisation of the public participation process taking account of cultural conditions of the project location and best international practice. Stakeholder engagement plan provides description of broader, more inclusive and continuous process between the company and potentially affected parties that encompasses a range of activities and approaches, and relates to the entire lifecycle of a project. In this context, good stakeholder relations are a prerequisite for a good risk management.

The SEP was elaborated according to the *EBRD Guidance for Preparation of Stakeholder Engagement Plan* with regard to the EBRD Principles for information disclosure, meaningful consultation and grievance mechanisms.

The project implementation will be regularly supervised in the light of SEP and updated if needed.

### Proposed Activity

Construction of the *overhead* extra high-voltage power line 2x400 kV in routing Križovany nad Váhom – Bystričany – Horná Ždaňa of the planned connection of junction point Bystričany to the 400 kV transmission system.

The proposed activity represents construction of the 400 kV line without additional technical infrastructure.

Preparation of the power line construction is realised in two phases:

1<sup>st</sup> phase - 2x400 kV power line Bystričany – Križovany

2<sup>nd</sup> phase - 2x400 kV power line Bystričany – Horná Ždaňa

### Proponent

SEPS a.s., Slovenská elektrizačná prenosová sústava, a.s.  
(Slovak Electricity Transmission System, Plc.)

### Location of the proposed activity

**1<sup>st</sup> phase:** The location of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the proposed activity - linear construction of overhead power line will be situated in the track of the existing corridor of the 2x110 kV line V8769/8770, running in general southwest – northeast direction gradually through cadastral areas of municipalities: Križovany nad Dudváhom, Zavar and Dolné Lovčice and then in the existing corridor of 220 kV line V274.





**Fig. 1: 1<sup>st</sup> phase:** Affected municipalities, districts and regions according to the administrative classification

**2<sup>nd</sup> phase:** The location of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the proposed activity - linear construction of overhead electric power line will be situated in the track of corridors of dismantled lines rated 220 kV and 2x110 kV, in combination with tracks of existing lines rated 2x110 kV and 400 kV as well as in new outline with bypasses of built-up areas of municipalities.

**Fig. 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> phase:** Affected municipalities, districts and regions according to the administrative classification



## Rationale for the proposed solution

The proposed 2x400 kV power line represents a new element in the transmission system, which main benefits and reasons for realisation are the following:

- operational safety of 400 kV network

- interconnections of main junction points of the network
- ensuring new power supply quality
- strengthening capabilities of national electricity transmission network
- strengthening capabilities of trans-boundary electricity transmission network
- enhancing the development potential of the Slovak Republic

### **Brief technical description of the project**

The aim of the investment proposal is the realisation of planned connection of the junction point Bystričany to the 400 kV transmission system, resulting in new 400 kV interconnection, which will contribute to the fulfilment of further conditions for the gradual decommission of old 220 kV system and its replacement by new 400 kV voltage level system in Slovak Republic.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> phase - 2x400 kV line Bystričany – Križovany

The new 2x400 kV power line Bystričany - Križovany of approximately 80 km in total length, situated mostly in the existing corridor, will be constructed on galvanized steel towers in combined configuration of DONAU and SUDOK type.

Total number of towers: 270

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> phase - 2x400 kV line Bystričany – Horná Ždaňa

The new 2x400 kV power line H. Ždaňa – Bystričany, of approximately 31 km in total length, will be constructed on galvanized steel towers of SUDOK type.

The final length of power line can vary between 29,7 to 31,2 km depending on the final combination of selected alternatives.

Total number of towers: 113-127

Technical design of the construction must conform to the applicable standards and requirements for power line operation.

The technical design in details is stated in NTS, which is published on the EBOR webpage <http://www.ebrd.com/pages/country/slovakrepublic.shtml>).

## **2. REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **United Nations Framework**

The international conventions in which the principles of the engagement of affected parties and the communication with the public are based:

- *Declaration on Environment and Development, Rio 92*
- *Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters of 25 June 1998.*

In case of the presented investment proposal it can be stated that all previous phases of the project (EIA) have been performed in line with the above mentioned conventions. Also the next project phases are planned in line with these conventions.

### **European Union**

*Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by the Directive 97/11/EC of 3 March 1997*



*Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment and amending with regards to public participation and access to justice Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC*

Affected and supporting Directive is the *Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC.*

The EU Directives are transposed into the legislation of Slovak republic being a Member State and thus their respecting during the preparation and implementation of the project can be declared.

## European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

In accordance with the regulatory requirements for public consultations and disclosure of information on projects financed by EBRD the elaboration of a SEP is required.

This requirement is laid down on the basis of the *EBRD 2008 Environmental and Social Policy* and *2008 Public Information Policy*.

## Slovakia

Public access to information is in Slovakia ensured by the ratification of the above mentioned international conventions, by a proper transposition of EU Directives and certainly, by the national legislation as well.

The participation of public in the decision-making process is governed by the Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council. This directive has been transposed into the Slovak legislation by the **Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on the environmental impact assessment** and on amendments to certain acts. The directive is reflected also in the Act No. **245/2003 Coll.** on the integrated prevention and control on pollution of environment as amended.

Access to justice in environmental matters is in Slovak national legislation governed mainly through the following acts:

- **Constitution of the Slovak republic** No. 460/1992 Coll.
- Act No. 71/1967 Coll. **on administrative procedure** (Administrative Procedure Code)
- Act No. 99/1963 Coll. **Civil Procedure Code**, as amended

The details about the acts and conventions regulating the problems of the public participation are stated in the annexes in the part called REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

Proper communication and disclosure of information to stakeholders and general public is ensured mainly by the already mentioned **Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment (EIA)** in individual phases:

- Preliminary Environmental Study
- Scope of Assessment
- Environmental Impact Statement

- Public consultations
- Expert Review and Final Record

The details about the particular phases of EIA process and the problems of the public participation are stated in the annexes in the part called **STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM V ZMYSLE ZAKONA 24/2006 (EIA)**

Public is naturally entitled to **participate in the following permitting procedure.**

Examples of available means for disclosure of information to public within EIA process:

- announcement related to the proposed activity made by the affected municipality **in usual way**, i.e. posting of the information on notice board or bulletin board, by means of local radio, television, newspapers, on web pages and in public meetings etc.;
- ensuring availability of documents – i.e. Preliminary Environmental Study, Scope of Assessment, Environmental Impact Statement and Final Record so that interested public can make acquaintance of their content, take notes and copies if needed;
- organization of discussions, meetings, expert seminars, lectures, exhibitions;
- establishment of public information centre if necessary;
- individual meetings and consultations with affected citizens or their representatives.

### 3. SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Principles of the engagement of stakeholders in the Environmental Impact Assessment are described in Chapter 3 Stakeholder engagement plan according to the Act No. 24/2006 Coll. (EIA).

The overview of EIA for the proposed 2x400 kV line Bystričany – Križovany – Horná Ždaňa is provided in the table below, including brief description of the engagement of stakeholders.

The EIA process:

Phase	Description	Starting date of the phase	Stakeholders activities
1. Preliminary environmental study ("Zamer")	Submission of the Preliminary Environmental Study to the MoE, distribution of the documentation to municipalities and affected authorities and institutions, publishing the Preliminary Environmental Study on web pages	<b>1st phase</b> 7.12. 2011	Affected parties submitted their written standpoints on the Preliminary Environmental Study to the MoE as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Affected state administration bodies:46</li> <li>- Affected municipalities:14</li> <li>- Expert institutions:3</li> <li>- Public:1</li> </ul>
		<b>2nd phase</b> 26.4.2012	Affected parties submitted their written standpoints on the Preliminary Environmental Study to the MoE as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Affected state administration bodies:21</li> <li>- Affected municipalities:4</li> <li>- Expert institutions:0</li> <li>- Public:1</li> </ul>
2. Scoping of assessment	Common meeting of competent authority (MoE), relevant affected state	<b>1st phase</b> 10.2.2012	Representatives of respective authority, proponent and elaborators of the EIA documentation as well as representatives of several municipalities participated at the meeting

Phase	Description	Starting date of the phase	Stakeholders activities
	administration bodies, municipalities and proponent prior to the Scope of Assessment defining areas that have to be tackled in detail within the Environmental Impact Statement.	<b>2nd phase</b> 28.6.2012	Except for the competent authority, proponent and elaborators of the EIA documentation also representatives of municipalities asking for new local alternative routes participated at the meeting – more detail in Chapter 6
3. EIA study – Environmental Impact Statement „Správa o hodnotení“	Submission of the Environmental Impact Statement to the MoE, distribution of the documentation to municipalities and affected authorities and institutions, publishing the Preliminary Environmental Study on web pages	<b>1st phase</b> 23.7.2012	Affected parties submitted their written standpoints on the Preliminary Environmental Study to the MoE as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Affected state administration bodies:48</li> <li>- Affected municipalities:7</li> <li>- Expert institutions:4</li> <li>- Public:0</li> </ul>
		<b>2nd phase</b> 18.1.2013	Details on the submitted standpoints of involved parties were not known by the time of the SEP submission
4. Public consultations	Common public consultations on the proposed activity in affected municipalities	<b>1st phase</b> 3.-4 September 2012 *	Disclosure of information to the general public on several meetings published in advance, providing information about the activity and impacts, consultations with citizens. Minutes from consultations including opinions provided to the MoE.
		<b>2nd phase</b> 20.-21. February 2013	Opportunity to directly communicate with representatives of the proponent and actively participate in the EIA process was given to the wide public. * Details in Chapter 7
5. Expert review	Opinion of an independent expert on the EIA study and accuracy of the EIA process	<b>1st phase</b> December 2012	Independent expert Doc. K. Pavličková, CSc., based on all available information about the project, issued the expert review for the MoE as basis for the Final Record
		<b>2nd phase</b> April 2013	Independent expert Ing. Szabóová, based on all available information about the project, issued the expert review for the MoE as basis for the Final Record
6. Final Record	Based on the EIA process including all submitted standpoints and minutes from public consultations the Final Record will be issued by the MoE.	<b>1st phase</b> 19.12.2012	The Final Record was issued, published on the web page of the MoE, distributed to all affected authorities and published in all affected municipalities
		<b>2nd phase</b> May 2013	The Final Record was issued, published on the web page of the MoE, distributed to all affected authorities and published in all affected municipalities

Certainly, public was regularly provided with information about the whole process in compliance with the Aarhus Convention. Individual steps of the process were regularly published on the proponent's webpage [www.sepsas.sk](http://www.sepsas.sk), on [www.enviroportal.sk](http://www.enviroportal.sk) and on the websites or public bulletin boards of each affected municipalities, etc. (more detail in Chapter 10 Time table)

Considerable phases as regards the engagement of stakeholders to the assessment process of proposed 2x400 kV line Bystričany – Križovany – Horná Ždaňa are in detail



described in Chapters 6 Consultations with representatives of affected municipalities and in Chapter 7 Public consultations.

### Transboundary impacts

No transboundary impacts of the proposed activity have been identified. No neighbouring country has applied for participation in the EIA process.

## 4. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

The Act No. 24/2006 Coll. (EIA) enables broader participation of stakeholders and public in the entire process of environmental impact assessment through providing comments and opinions on the proposed activity.

According to the above mentioned legislation following stakeholders are involved in the EIA process:

- **Competent Authority** – state administrative body regulates and coordinates the EIA process and prepares the final output – Final Record.  
*Ministry of Environment of the Slovak republic, Department of Environmental Assessment, Nám. L. Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava, Contact person for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase: Ing. Milan Luciak, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase: Mgr. Andrej Kučeravý*
- **Sectoral authority** - central state administrative body competent in field of the proposed activity:  
*Ministry of Economy of the Slovak republic, Mierová 19, 827 15 Bratislava*
- **Permission authority** - municipality or state administrative body entrusted with the responsibility for giving the permission for the proposed activity  
*Building office will be appointed prior to the permission process in line with the Building Code. One of the affected municipalities will act as building office for each phase.*
- **Affected authority** – state administrative body, whose agreement, standpoint or opinion is essential for the permission of the proposed activity

### Affected nature protection authorities:

*District Environmental Office Nitra, J.Kráľa 124, 949 01 Nitra  
District Environmental Office Trnava, branch office Hlohovec, Jarmočná 3, 920 01 Hlohovec  
District Environmental Office Trnava, Kollárova 8, 017 02 Trnava  
District Environmental Office Topoľčany, ul. 17. novembra 2304, 95501 Topoľčany  
District Environmental Office Trenčín, Gen. M. R. Štefánika 20, 911 49 Trenčín  
District Environmental Office, Dlhá 3, 971 01 Prievidza  
District Environmental Office Prievidza – branch office Partizánske, Nám. SNP 151/6, Partizánske, 958 01  
District Environmental Office Banská Bystrica, Skuteckého 19, 974 01 Banská Bystrica  
District Environmental Office Banská Štiavnica, branch office Žarnovica, Bystrická 53, 966 81 Žarnovica  
District Environmental Office Banská Štiavnica, branch office Žiar nad Hronom, Ul. SNP č.124, 965 01 Žiar nad Hronom*

### Other affected authorities:

*Office of the Trnava self-governing region  
Office of the Nitra self-governing region  
Office of the Banská Bystrica self-governing region*

Office of the Trenčín self-governing region  
Regional lands Office Trnava  
Regional lands Office Nitra,  
Regional lands Office Trenčín  
Regional lands Office Banská Bystrica  
Regional Office of road transport and roads Nitra,  
Regional Office of road transport and roads Trenčín  
Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava  
Regional Directorate of fire and police brigades Trnava,  
Regional Directorate of fire and police brigades Nitra,  
Regional Directorate of fire and police brigades Trenčín  
Regional Directorate of fire and police brigades Banská Bystrica  
District Office Trnava - department of civil protection and crisis management  
District Office Nitra - department of civil protection and crisis management  
District Office Topoľčany - department of civil protection and crisis management  
District Office Prievidza - department of civil protection and crisis management  
District Office Žiar nad Hronom - department of civil protection and crisis management  
District forest office Trnava  
District forest office Nitra  
District forest office Prievidza  
District forest office Žarnovica  
District mining office Bratislava  
District mining office Prievidza  
District mining office Banská Bystrica  
District Office of road transport and roads Trnava  
District Office of road transport and roads Nitra  
District Office of road transport and roads Topoľčany  
District Office of road transport and roads Prievidza  
District Office of road transport and roads Žiar nad Hronom  
Regional monuments board Trenčín  
Regional monuments board Banská Bystrica  
Ministry of Environment of the Slovak republic - Department of nature protection and landscape development  
Ministry of Defence of the Slovak republic  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak republic  
Civil Aviation Authority of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava  
Railway Regulatory Authority, Bratislava

- **Affected municipality** – municipality within whose territory the proposed activity should be realised and municipality whose territory can be affected by the impacts of the proposed activity

**Affected municipalities for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase:** Križovany nad Dudváhom, Zavar, Dolné Lovčice, Siladice, Dolné Zelenice, Dvorníky, Sasinkovo, Kľačany, Dolné Trhovište, Rišňovce, Lukáčovce, Nové Sady, Kapince, Biskupová, Malé Ripňany, Čermany, Horné Obdokovce, Ludanice, Chrabrany, Dvorany nad Nitrou, Nitrianska Streda, Nemčice, Topoľčany, Solčany, Práznovce, Bošany, Klátova Nová Ves, Nedanovce, Turčianky, Krásno, Brodzany, Partizánske, Malé Uherce, Veľké Uherce, Pažiť, Oslany, Čereňany, Bystričany

**Affected municipalities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase:** Veľké Uherce, Pažiť, Oslany, Horná Ves, Radobica, Veľké Pole, Píla, Župkov, Hrabíčov, Bzenica, Dolná Ždaňa, Horná Ždaňa

Affected municipalities were represented by mayors, members of the municipality or other delegated representatives.

- **Experts (expert institutions)** – experts from different branches of science, technology and practice, whose opinions and standpoint are relevant to the issue.  
*Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Science, Nitra*  
*National Motorway Company, Plc., Bratislava*  
*Slovak Water Management Enterprise, state enterprise, branch office Piešťany*  
*Slovak Water Management Enterprise, state enterprise, branch office Banská Bystrica*  
*Water Management Construction, state enterprise, Bratislava*  
*State Nature Conservation of the SR, Banská Bystrica*

- **Proponent** – natural or legal person intending to realise activity that can be subject to the impact assessment.

*Slovenská elektrizačná prenosová sústava, a.s. (Slovak Electricity Transmission System, Plc.), Mlynské nivy 59/A, 824 84 Bratislava, Contact Person: Ing. Ladislav Palkovič, e-mail: palkovic\_ladislav@sepsas.sk, phone: 02 5069 2947,*

- **Public** - understood in the widest sense, one or more persons, civic associations, organisations, initiatives or groups; analysis of the general public is provided in the text below. Two organisations mentioned below participated in the EIA process in written form:

*Civic association Medzihorie, Námestie slobody 2, 972 47 Oslany, Contact person: Jozef Hrotek, Horná Ves 191, 972 48 Horná Ves, phone: 0905 606 207*  
*Agricultural Cooperative - Poľnohospodárske družstvo Tribeč Nitrianska Streda, Družstevná 792/73, 956 17 Solčany*

All the above mentioned public authorities and expert institutions have been provided with the documentation for issuance of the statement on proposed activity. All stakeholders including public have been regularly informed about individual steps of the process in line with the programme for publication of project information (Chapter 10).

Meetings with representatives of affected municipalities were held simultaneously in order to find solutions for local problems regarding the routing of power line (more detail in Chapter 5).

Standpoints of all stakeholders on the Preliminary Environmental Study were evaluated and incorporated into the Environmental Impact Statement as needed.

Standpoints on the Environmental Impact Statement are also reflected in the Expert Review and Final Record issued by the MoE.

### **Public**

Citizens can effectively influence the decision-making process regarding construction in case their rights are directly affected, such as property rights to the land. Another possibility to become involved in the permitting process for the respective activity is to participate in the EIA process.

If the public participates in the environmental impact assessment by submitting comments and objections, it can **influence the final design of the construction or activity while directly participating in the decision-making process for giving permission** to the activity (such as zoning decision and building permit process according to the Building Code).

The Act No. 24/2006 Coll. as amended (EIA) defines:



- **public** as one or more natural and legal persons, their associations, organizations or groups.
- **interested public** as public having or potentially having interest in the decision-making procedure for the submitted proposal

Public participating in the process (**interested public**) can be characterised as follows:

- Natural person
- Legal person
- Civic initiative
- Civic association
- Environmental non-governmental organisation

During individual phases of the EIA process for the proposed activity – 2x400 kV line – two organisations were involved in written form through submission of their standpoints on the Preliminary Environmental Study (**Agricultural Cooperative Tribeč** – being legal person and **Civic association Medzihorie**).

Consequently, both the organisations were regularly informed by the proponent about individual steps of the process. Proponent repeatedly communicated with the **Civic association Medzihorie**, which associates five municipalities affected by the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase (*Horná Ves, Oslany, Radobica, Veľké Pole a Veľké Uherce*). Also in cooperation with representatives of this association a new, more suitable routing of the power line through bypass of built-up areas of municipalities Radobica and Horná Ves was consulted.

No other individual citizens have got involved in the process in written form so far. General public was provided with detailed information on the project by each municipality and mainly during public consultations (more detail in Chapter 6), where opinions expressed by citizens were recorded in minutes serving as supporting document for the issuance of the Final Record.

#### **The identification of subjects threatened by the project for the routing of power line**

No threatened subjects were identified in the variants of the proposed project for the routing of power line, which had been assessed environmentally and socially as the most suitable ones (more in NTS).

The Civic association Medzihorie (as the non-governmental organization, which participates in the EIA) supported the preferred project variant.

## **5. CONSULTATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AFFECTED MUNICIPALITIES**

One way of effective involvement of stakeholder representatives into the assessment process represent direct consultations and meetings. This is also the best way to find solutions of potential problem, if necessary, eventually to provide appropriate explanation.

During the assessment process of the proposed power line construction common meetings of proponent and municipality representatives were held. Meetings – consultations were held in the phase following the submission of Preliminary Environmental Study – based on standpoints of affected parties that required new local alternatives for the routing of line at bypasses of some of the municipalities. A brief overview on the meetings is provided in the table below:

### 1st phase : Bystričany - Križovany

#### Agenda:

The purpose of meetings with the participation of the proponent, project organisation, elaborator of the environmental documentation for EIA, affected municipalities and in case of municipality Biskupova also land users was the optimization of the routing of the proposed 2x400 kV line out of the original track of the 220 kV line, in short sections, where the routing of new 2x400 kV line replacing the 220 kV line runs through a built-up area of municipality, the protective zone conflicting with residential houses.

Date	Place	Stakeholders from affected municipalities
17.4.2012	Municipal Office Biskupová	Stanislav Knížat - mayor, Municipal Office Biskupová 62 956 07 Veľké Ripňany, phone.: 038/5387 330
17.4.2012	Municipal Office Klátová Nová Ves	Ing. Iveta Randziaková – mayor, 958 44 Klátová Nová Ves č.100, phone: 038/5420 201
17.4.2012	Municipal Office Bystričany	Vojtech Bartoš – mayor, Municipal Office Bystričany, Mirka Nešpora 1/17, 972 45 Bystričany, Phone: 046/5493120, 5493009

### 2nd phase : Bystričany – Horná Ždaňa

#### Agenda:

The purpose of meetings with the participation of the proponent, elaborator of the environmental documentation for EIA and affected municipalities was the optimization of the routing of proposed 2x400 kV line in order to avoid conflicts with development or zone-planning interests of municipalities and avoid the built-up areas.

Date	Place	Stakeholders from affected municipalities
2.7.2012	MoE SR,	Ing. Ján Tomáš – mayor of the municipality Župkov, Municipal Office Župkov, Župkov 12, 966 71 Horné Hámre, phone: 045/ 6866 122
2.7.2012	MoE SR,	Ing. Štefan Vozár – delegated representative of the municipality Veľké Pole, Municipal Office Veľké Pole 1, 966 74 Veľké Pole, Phone: 045/6895123
2.7.2012, 13.8.2012	MoE SR, Municipal Office Hrabíčov	Ján Adámik – mayor of the municipality Hrabíčov, Hrabíčov 188, 966 78 Hrabíčov, phone: 045 / 686 61 20
13.8.2012	Municipal Office Radobica	PhDr. Stanislav Bartoš, CSc. – mayor of the municipality Radobica, Municipal Office Radobica, Radobica 124, 97248 Radobica, phone:046/ 5494105
14.8.2012	Municipal Office Horná Ves	Jozef Hrotek – mayor of the municipality Horná Ves, at the same time representative of the Civic association Medzihorie, Horná Ves 191, 972 48 Horná Ves, phone: 0905 606 207

Thanks to these steps all problematic sections of the proposed project were solved already within the EIA process with participation of stakeholders and affected municipalities as well as of the Civic association Medzihorie, especially through creation of new alternatives in selected sections that were consequently assessed within the Environmental Impact Statement

The records are the part of documents for an independent expert for the elaboration of the expert review.

## 6. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The main contact between the proponent and general public represents the public consultation on the Environmental Impact Statement that has to take place within 30 days from the submission to the municipality. Proponent is obliged to ensure qualified interpretation of the subject-matter. Municipality together with the proponent bears the responsibility for organisation of public consultation and for taking minutes. In case of need several municipalities can agree on organising common public consultation, this was the case of the proposed 2x400 kV line



The role of public and other participants in the project is to express opinions and to declare intention to protect individual interest including the environment. The character of these meetings is not only of informative but also of consultative nature.

Verbal statements, eventually written public comments raised at the meetings are recorded in minutes, which are consequently (within 7 days) submitted to the MoE as supporting document for the issuance of the Expert Review and Final Record.

The legislation does not specify concrete means and ways for organizing public consultations. Basic principles are impartiality and informative character, as well as natural and informal atmosphere using open dialogue.

Public consultations were held as common for several municipalities upon agreement. The table below provides an overview on common public consultations held for both phases:

Location	Affected municipalities	Date	Notes	Summary of public comments
<b>1st phase Bystričany – Križovany</b>				
Rišňovce	Križovany nad Dudváhom, Zavar, Dolné Lovčice, Siladice, Dolné Zelenice, Rišňovce Dvorníky, Sasinkovo, Kľačany, Dolné Trhovište, Lukáčovce, Nové Sady, Kapince	3.Sep 2012	Attendees:14	Interest in information on the line routing, on process of the property settlement for the building permit and on technical realisation of the project.
Topoľčany	Topoľčany, Biskupová, Malé Ripňany, Čermany, Horné Obdokovce, Ludanice, Chrabrany, Dvorany nad Nitrou, Nitrianska Streda, Nemčice, Solčany, Práznovce	4.Sep 2012	Attendees:11	Interest in information regarding the planned construction of R8 motorway close to the line routing and the technical realisation of the project, Request for the realisation of bypass of municipalities Biskupová and Kapince and other measures related to the construction works within the Special Protected Area Tribeč was repeated.
Partizánske	Partizánske, Bošany, Klátova Nová Ves, Nedanovce, Turčianky, Krásno, Brodzany, Malé Uherce, Veľké Uherce, Pažiť, Oslany, Čereňany, Bystričany	4.Sep 2012	Attendees:7	Interest in information regarding the way of property settlement for the building permit. Additionally, modification of the routing of new 2x400 kV line outside the original 220 kV line corridor between breaking points R12 and R14 was proposed as an environmental measure. The aim is to eliminate impacts of the inappropriate routing in the original 220 kV line corridor.
Location	Affected municipalities	Date	Notes	Summary of public comments
<b>2nd phase Bystričany – Horná Ždaňa</b>				
Horná Ves	Veľké Uherce, Pažiť, Oslany, Horná Ves, Radobica	20. Feb 2013	Attendees: 18	Collective supporting opinion on the HV3 alternative – i.e. routing of new line apart from municipality Radobica was expressed from side of attending inhabitants.
Veľké Pole	Veľké Pole	21. Feb 2013	Attendees: 23	Participants were mainly interested in relations between construction and forest land regime, property settlement and impacts of the electromagnetic radiance on human health.



Location	Affected municipalities	Date	Notes	Summary of public comments
Hrabičov	Píla, Župkov, Hrabičov, Bzenica, Dolná Ždaňa, Horná Ždaňa	21. Feb 2013	Attendees: 27	The alternative VP3 was supported en masse. Participants were mainly interested in relation between construction and forest land regime, width of the protective zone in each sections, property settlement and environmental supervision. Inhabitants of Hrabičov showed interest in realisation of alternative HR2 – outside the built-up area of municipality.

The records were signed by the mayors of municipalities and sent to the MoE. The records from the public consultations are the part of documents for an independent expert for the elaboration of the expert review.

## 7. GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

Citizens can effectively influence the decision-making process on projects in case their rights are directly influenced, such as property rights on land. Another opportunity how to become involved in the permitting process for the concerned activity is to get involved in the EIA process.

Active participation in the EIA process is the right expression of interest on the decision-making process for giving permission to the activity. Moreover, **submission of standpoints and comments within the EIA process is the way how to really influence the result.** Thus, such legal tools should be fully used by anyone interested in the permission of this activity.

*It is recommended to follow the entire EIA process and its single phases. For this purposes it is necessary to follow changes in concrete EIA procedures provided on the web page [www.enviroportal.sk](http://www.enviroportal.sk) as well as on the notice board of the respective municipality.*

It is obvious from the description of EIA process in Chapter 4, as well as from the Plan of stakeholder engagement in Chapter 3 and from detailed time table for publication of information on the proposed activity in Chapter 11, that stakeholders have several opportunities to submit a grievance within the EIA process.

Main possibilities to submit a grievance are the following:

- Submission of the standpoint on the Preliminary Environmental Study
- Submission of the standpoint on the Environmental Impact Statement
- Expression of the opinion (grievance) during public consultations
- Submission of the standpoint at any time during the EIA process to the competent authority:

*Ministry of Environment of the Slovak republic, Department of Environmental Assessment, Nám. L. Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava, Contact Person for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase: Ing. Milan Luciak, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase: Mgr. Andrej Kučeravý*

Public, **that participates in the environmental impact assessment (EIA)** of the proposed activity **is entitled to participate also in the following permitting process** for the proposed 2x400 kV line. Public can submit its grievance within the following permitting process in line with the Building Code.

### **The submitting of grievances during the process of land and building proceedings during the construction process (i.e. after the EIA process)**

During the phases of the project preparation within the territorial and building proceedings and during the construction phase there will be the following options for the submitting of grievances by the public:

- on the webpage [www.sepsas.sk](http://www.sepsas.sk) there will be the link for the interactive form enabling to send the grievance online (see the annex).
- in the particular affected municipalities the forms for submitting the grievance will be available in the municipal authorities (see the annex). These forms will be collected regularly and submitted to be solved.
- the contact data of the constructor of building and the responsible person to who it is possible to submit the urgent grievance will be on a public place in the affected municipalities.
- there will be the possibility to look at the documents with the current condition of the project with the contact details of the proponent or the responsible person for the given building section in the permitting building offices.
- During the construction a responsible person will be designated for receiving and current solving of delivered grievances for the given section.
- During the whole construction there will be a central place for public contact at disposal (SEPS)

### **Grievances Requisites**

All grievances need to have:

- Date of the Grievance submittal
- Full names of the Grievant;
- Contact details (address, telephone, e-mail. Fax, etc);
- Description of the nature of the grievance with specific facts, place, grounding its reasons;
- Signature of the Grievant.

### **Grievance solving**

The centre for the acceptance of grievances and providing the current information at the proponent SEPS a.s. Responsible person:.....

The steps of solving the grievances:

- Written grievances (forms) will be sent 1xweek from the municipalities, or the time interval will be changed according to need.
- The collected forms as well as the online grievances will be concentrated in the centre for the acceptance of grievances (the Department of line investments)
- The responsible manager will verify the relevance of grievance
- The responsible manager will verify the current condition of the given section of the line at the building supervisor as well as at the environmental supervisor

- Consequently the manager will ensure the correction (depending on the phase of the project at the project manager of the construction preparation or the construction distributor)
- The responsible manager will assess the adequacy of correction
- In the end of the process the grievant as well as the municipality where the grievance was submitted will be informed about the correction

**The contact details for the submitting of grievances during the whole process of the preparation and construction of the project:**

Email: [palkovic.ladislav@sepsas.sk](mailto:palkovic.ladislav@sepsas.sk)

Phone: +4212 5069 2947

## 8. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Respecting the SEP (as well as implementation of declared facts) is required by the Act on EIA (No. 24/2006). The time frame is directly required by respective clauses and cannot be changed (prolonged or shortened) arbitrarily.

**The respecting of the relevant deadlines to SEP will be ensured by:**

- expert contracted company ENVIRO-TATRY, s.r.o.,
- internally the proponent – the Department of line investments of SEPS a.s.

**The respecting of statutory period of the EIA process (the part of SEP) will be checked by:** Independent expert, who will verify

- the respecting of deadlines for the submitting of standpoints to documents,
- the respecting of adequate length of the information publication in the municipalities,
- the respecting of proper period for the public consultations realization
- the findings shall be stated in the expert review submitted to the MoE,
- the information about the respecting the deadlines will be published in the Final Record on [www.enviroportal.sk](http://www.enviroportal.sk) and the web pages of municipalities.

Respecting relevant deadlines is ensured primarily by the contracted expert company and also internally by the proponent at the Department of line investments of SEPS, a.s. – consequently controlled by the respective competent authority as well as by the affected municipalities.

Records from individual stakeholders activities are in line with the respective legislation submitted to the **competent authority** (**minutes** from individual meetings with representatives of stakeholders, minutes from public consultations).

Naturally, the transparency of the entire process can be controlled by wider professional public as the individual stages are regularly published on webpages of the MoE ([www.enviroportal.sk](http://www.enviroportal.sk)) and of the proponent ([www.sepsas.sk](http://www.sepsas.sk)).



The information about respecting the SEP after the EIA process (during and after the construction) will be part of the monitoring of reports from the environmental supervision and monitoring. The reports will be elaborated by the contracted company ENVIRO-TATRY, s.r.o., the interval of monitoring reports will be 6-12 months. The proponent SEPS, a.s. will publish them on the webpage [www.sepsas.sk](http://www.sepsas.sk), in the document section.

## 9. COMPETENCES AND OBLIGATIONS

The process of environmental impact assessment of the proposed activity – 2x400 kV line Križovany – Bystričany – Horná Ždaňa requires participation of several competent employees of the company as well as contracted experts in the on-going stakeholders' activities.

Within the **company SEPS a.s.**, the preparation of the project of 2x400 kV power line Križovany - Bystričany – Horná Ždaňa in the EIA phase falls under the competences of the Division of Development and Investment, competent contact person is Ing. *Ladislav Palkovič* – Department of line investments, e-mail: [palkovic\\_ladislav@sepsas.sk](mailto:palkovic_ladislav@sepsas.sk), phone: 02 5069 2947.

### Participation in stakeholders' activities:

Contact person as well as contact details of the competent representative of the proponent are introduced in the submitted and published documentation in order to provide information requested by public.

*Representatives of the department of line investments* participate regularly in all consultations with representatives of public authorities and organisations, affected municipalities and public as well. Similarly they take part in all necessary stages of the EIA process (scope of assessment, public consultations).

Usually several representatives of the relevant division participate in the most important step regarding the stakeholders activities, which is the public consultation.

For a proper EIA process from the expert's point of view is responsible the contracted **company - ENVIRO-TATRY, s.r.o.**, associating relevant experts, competent persons for respective areas as well as projective activities for the purposes of individual EIA phases. Contact person: *RNDr. Martin Mocik, Levárska 11, Bratislava 841 04, phone: +421903626522*. The company is also responsible for the elaboration of environmental documentation.

### Participation in stakeholders' activities:

Representatives of the expert company are during the entire process in direct contact with the competent authority and relevant affected authorities. In charge of the proponent, they are responsible for organisational and technical implementation of the process as well as for the necessary communication with affected authorities, municipalities and public.

The expert company acts as the first contact point for handling actual requests of public authorities during the EIA process (additional requirements regarding the documentation, organisation of meetings etc.)

Certainly, representatives of the expert company regularly participate in all consultations with representatives of state authorities and organisations, affected municipalities and



public as well as on all necessary stages of the EIA process (Scope of Assessment, public consultations).

Organisation of public consultations falls under the responsibility of this company in cooperation with affected municipalities. Representatives of the company are also responsible for the additional clarification of the proposed activity to the public during public consultations.

Last but not least, the company is also responsible for the elaboration of EIA documentation that is being regularly published on several web pages or directly in municipalities

## 10. TIME TABLE – PROGRAMME FOR PUBLICATION OF PROJECT INFORMATION

SUBJECT	DATE	SOURCE/activity	The possibility to send the standpoint – date	Sent standpoints
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – Preliminary Environmental Study - 2x400 kV Bystričany – Križovany</b> publication on the SEPS web page information sent to municipalities	7.10.2011	<a href="http://www.sepsas.sk/seps/VedenieBystricanyKrizovany.asp?kod=525">http://www.sepsas.sk/seps/VedenieBystricanyKrizovany.asp?kod=525</a>	-	-
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – Preliminary Environmental Study</b> Submitting of the study to the MoE, documents distribution, publication on the web page of the MoE	7.12.2011	<a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x-400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-krizovany">http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x-400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-krizovany</a>	until 7.1.2012	Delivered standpoints to the MoE: - Affected state administration bodies:21 - Affected municipalities:4 - Expert institutions:0 - Public:1
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – Preliminary Environmental Study</b> – publication in affected municipalities	10.12.2011	web pages, notice boards, radio in each municipality		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – Collective meeting</b> before Scope of Assessment	10.2.2012	Common meeting of competent authority (MoE), relevant affected state administration bodies, municipalities and proponent prior to the Scope of Assessment defining areas that have to be tackled in detail within the Environmental Impact Statement.	10.2.2012	Minutes from the negotiation in the MoE
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – Scope of Assessment</b> – web page of the MoE	23.2.2012	<a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x-400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-krizovany">http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x-400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-krizovany</a>	until 4.2. 2012	none
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase – Preliminary Environmental Study - 2x400 kV Bystričany – Horná Žďaňa</b> publication on the SEPS web page	5.3.2012	<a href="http://www.sepsas.sk/seps/VedenieBystricanyZdana.asp?kod=533">http://www.sepsas.sk/seps/VedenieBystricanyZdana.asp?kod=533</a>	-	-
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase –meeting</b> with the municipality representatives	17.4.2012	meeting with the participation of the proponent, project organisation, elaborator of the environmental documentation for EIA, affected municipalities	17.4.2012	Minutes from negotiations were delivered to the MoE





<b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase – Preliminary Environmental Study –</b> Submitting of the study to the MoE, documents distribution, publication on the web page of the MoE	2.5.2012	<a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-horna-zdana">http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-horna-zdana</a>	until 2.6.2012	Delivered standpoints to the MoE: - Affected state administration bodies:21 - Affected municipalities:4 - Expert institutions:0 - Public:1
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase – Preliminary Environmental Study -</b> publication in affected municipalities	10.5.2012	web pages, notice boards, radio in each municipality		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – Environmental Impact Statement</b> - publication on the SEPS web page	8.6.2012	<a href="http://www.sepsas.sk/seps/VedenieBystricanyKrizovany.asp?kod=525">http://www.sepsas.sk/seps/VedenieBystricanyKrizovany.asp?kod=525</a>	-	-
<b>2<sup>st</sup> phase – Collective meeting</b> before Scope of Assessment	28.6.2012	Common meeting of competent authority (MoE), relevant affected state administration bodies, municipalities and proponent prior to the Scope of Assessment defining areas that have to be tackled in detail within the Environmental Impact Statement.	28.6.2012	Minutes from the negotiation in the MoE
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – Environmental Impact Statement,</b> documents distribution, publication on the web page of the MoE	23.7.2012	<a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x-400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-krizovany">http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x-400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-krizovany</a>	until 4.9.2012	Delivered standpoints to the MoE: - Affected state administration bodies:48 - Affected municipalities:7 - Expert institutions:4 - Public:0
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – Environmental Impact Statement</b> - publication in affected municipalities	27.- 28.7.2012	web pages, notice boards, radio in each municipality		
<b>2<sup>st</sup> phase – meeting</b> with the municipality representatives	13.8.2012	meeting with the participation of the proponent, project organisation, elaborator of the environmental documentation for EIA, affected municipalities Hrabíčov, Radobica	13.8.2012	Minutes from negotiations were delivered to the MoE
<b>2<sup>st</sup> phase – meeting</b> with the municipality representatives	14.8.2012	meeting with the participation of the proponent, project organisation, elaborator of the environmental documentation for EIA, affected municipality Horná Ves and Civic association Medzihorje	14.8.2012	Minutes from negotiations were delivered to the MoE



<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – published information</b> on organisation of the public consultations in affected municipalities	16.- 17.8.2012	web pages, notice boards, radio in each municipality	until 31.8.2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivered minutes from all three public consultations,</li> <li>- no other individual standpoints were delivered</li> </ul>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – public consultations</b>	3.9.2012	In Rišňovce municipality		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – public consultations</b>	4.9.2012	In Topoľčany and Partizánske municipalities		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase – Environmental Impact Statement</b> - publication on the SEPS web page	28.11.2012	<a href="http://www.sepsas.sk/seps/VedenieBystricanyZdana.asp?kod=533">http://www.sepsas.sk/seps/VedenieBystricanyZdana.asp?kod=533</a>	-	-
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – Expert review</b> issued the expert review for the MoE	December 2012	Independent expert Doc. K. Pavličková, CSc., based on all available information about the project, issued the expert review for the MoE as basis for the Final Record	-	-
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – publication of the Final record</b> on the web page of the MoE	21.12.2012	<a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x-400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-krizovany">http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x-400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-krizovany</a>	-	-
<b>1<sup>st</sup> phase – publication of the Final record</b> in municipalities	Januar 2013	web pages, notice boards, radio in each municipality	-	-
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase – Environmental Impact Statement</b> - publication on the web page of the MoE	18.1.2013	<a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-horna-zdana">http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-horna-zdana</a>	until 28.2.2012	Delivered standpoints to the MoE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Affected state administration bodies:31</li> <li>- Affected municipalities:6</li> <li>- Expert institutions:0</li> <li>- Public:0</li> </ul>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase – Environmental Impact Statement</b> - publication in affected municipalities	23.- 25.1.2013	web pages, notice boards, radio in each municipality		
<b>2<sup>st</sup> phase – published information</b> on organisation of the public consultations in affected municipalities	29- 30.1.2013	web pages, notice boards, radio in each municipality	until 4.3.2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivered minutes from all three public consultations,</li> <li>- no other individual standpoints were delivered</li> </ul>
<b>2<sup>st</sup> phase – public consultations</b>	20.2.2013	In Horná Ves municipality		



<b>2<sup>st</sup> phase – public consultations</b>	21.2.2013	In Veľké Pole and Hrabčiov municipalities		
<b>2<sup>st</sup> phase – Expert review</b> issued the expert review for the MoE	April 2013	Independent expert Ing. Szabóová, based on all available information about the project, issued the expert review for the MoE as basis for the Final Record		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase – publication of the Final record</b> on the web page of the MoE	May 2013	<a href="http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-horna-zdana">http://www.enviroportal.sk/sk/eia/detail/vedenie-2x400-kv-lokalita-bystricany-horna-zdana</a>		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> phase – publication of the Final record</b> in municipalities	May 2013	web pages, notice boards, radio in each municipality		



Next stages, following the EIA process with the participation of stakeholders:

EXPECTED DATE	PROCESS	ACTIVITY
2013-2014	<b>Zoning decision process</b>	Publication of individual steps during the zoning decision process, identification of directly affected land owners
2013-2014	<b>Building permit process</b>	Publication of individual steps during the building permit process, direct communication with all affected land owners
During the entire construction phase	<b>Construction</b>	Providing information about the actual construction in affected municipalities
During the entire construction phase Report submitted every 6 months	<b>Environmental supervision</b>	Regular information on respecting the proposed environmental measures provided in the EIA documentation during the construction
Prior to the construction, during the entire construction phase and after the completion Report submitted every 12 months	<b>Environmental monitoring</b>	Providing information about the actual status of environmental components, that could be affected through the project implementation to the affected authorities and organisations (State Nature Conservation) *

\*The information will be also published simultaneously on the web pages of SEPS

#### **SEP update:**

The submitted SEP will be updated after each finished phase (Zoning decision process, Building permit process, Construction, Environmental monitoring), and will be published similarly as on the NTS web pages EBOR (<http://www.ebrd.com/pages/country/slovakrepublic.shtml>).

#### **Contact details for the information providing:**

You can find further information about the Project on the internet webpage of SEPS, a.s. [www.sepsas.sk](http://www.sepsas.sk) in the section: Documents – Assessment of impacts of buildings on the environment

(<http://www2.sepsas.sk/VedenieBystricanyKrizovany.asp?kod=525> for 1. Stage, <http://www2.sepsas.sk/VedenieBystricanyZdana.asp?kod=533> for 2. Stage)

#### **Contact person for the investment project:**

(general affairs)

Ing. *Ladislav Palkovič*

**SEPS, a.s.**, Mlynské nivy 59/A, 824 84 Bratislava

e-mail: [palkovic.ladislav@sepsas.sk](mailto:palkovic.ladislav@sepsas.sk),

tel.: +4212 5069 2947.

#### **Contact person for the EIA process affairs:**

RNDr. *Martin Mocik*,

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#### **Contact person for the construction affairs:**

Ing. *Marián Sabol*



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tel.: 02 5069 2931

**Contact person for the lands affairs:**

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tel.: 02 5069 2947

**Contact person for the environmental supervision and monitoring affairs:**

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tel.: +421 903 626 522.

## THE ANNEXES

### **A. Regulations and requirements**

- A.1 United Nations Framework
- A.2 European Union
- A.3 European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- 2.4 Slovakia

### **B. Stakeholders engagement program v zmysle zákona 24/2006 (EIA)**

### **C. Public Grievance Form**

#### **A. REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

##### **A.1 United Nations Framework**

*Declaration on Environment and Development, Rio 92*

Principle 10 of this Declaration says: "each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making process."

*Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters of 25 June 1998.*

By this Convention the Principle 10 of Rio Declaration is realised and developed.

Article 6.2 of this Convention stipulates that the "public concerned shall be informed either by public notice or individually, as appropriate, early in an environmental decision making procedure, and in an adequate, timely and effective manner" and defines public participation on specific activities.

In case of the presented investment proposal it can be stated that all previous phases of the project (EIA) have been performed in line with the above mentioned conventions. Also the next project phases are planned in line with these conventions.

## **A.2 European Union**

*Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by the Directive 97/11/EC of 3 March 1997*

*Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment and amending with regards to public participation and access to justice Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC*

Articles 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6 transpose the Aarhus Convention requirements for public participation and public review of an EIA report.

Article 6.4 entitles the public "to express comments and opinions when all options are open to the competent authority before the decision on the request for development consent is taken"

Article 6.5 stipulates the need to determine detailed arrangements for consulting the public concerned.

Article 6.6 requires provisions allowing sufficient time frame within different phases of EIA process to inform the public, and for the public concerned to effectively participate in the EIA process.

Affected and supporting Directive is the *Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC.*

## **A.3 European Bank for Reconstruction and Development**

In accordance with the regulatory requirements for public consultations and disclosure of information on projects financed by EBRD the elaboration of a SEP is required.

This requirement is laid down on the basis of the *EBRD 2008 Environmental and Social Policy* and *2008 Public Information Policy*.



#### A.4 Slovakia

Public access to information in Slovakia is ensured by the ratification of the above mentioned international conventions, by a proper transposition of EU Directives and certainly, by the national legislation as well. As regards the engagement of public into decision-making process the legislation following the Aarhus convention is of main importance.

The first pillar of the Aarhus convention declares the **right of public access to environmental information**. With regard to the first pillar of the Aarhus convention the Directive 2003/4/ES of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information was adopted.

In May 2000, National Council of the Slovak republic adopted the **Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information** and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, which codifies the public right on access to information.

In March 2004, the **Act No. 205/2004 Coll. on collecting and disseminating environmental information** and on amendment and supplementation of certain acts was adopted. It entered into force on 1 July 2004. Subject matter of this legislation is the transposition of the Directive of the European Parliament and Council No. 2003/4/EC.

Second pillar of the Aarhus Convention relates to the **public participation in decision-making process**

The participation of public in the decision-making process is governed by the Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council. This directive has been transposed into the Slovak legislation by the **Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on the environmental impact assessment** and on amendments to certain acts. The directive is reflected also in the Act No. 245/2003 Coll. on the integrated prevention and control on pollution of environment as amended.

The third pillar of the Aarhus Convention relates to the **access to justice in environmental matters** and provides guaranty to everyone, whose rights were infringed, to have the right for fair assessment by independent authorities (e.g. courts). Access to justice in environmental matters is in Slovak national legislation governed mainly through the following acts:

- **Constitution of the Slovak republic** No. 460/1992 Coll.
- Act No. 71/1967 Coll. **on administrative procedure** (Administrative Procedure Code)
- Act No. 99/1963 Coll. **Civil Procedure Code**, as amended

#### B. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN ACCORDING TO THE ACT No. 24/2006 COLL. (EIA)

Proper communication and disclosure of information to stakeholders and general public is ensured mainly by the already mentioned **Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment (EIA)** in individual phases as follows:

##### Preliminary Environmental Study

- Submission of the **Preliminary Environmental Study**, including basic information on the proposed activity (construction or operation) provided by the proponent must be communicated to the public in a way that is usual in the place where the activity is planned to be realised

- Public disclosure of information is provided by the affected municipality, while the Preliminary Environmental Study must be made available for a minimum 21 days
- Public can submit comments on the Preliminary Environmental Study within 21 days from the date of its publication. Comments have to be sent to the competent authority.

#### Scope of Assessment

- For activities, that are to be assessed **obligatory** (such as the power line 2x400 kV) a **Scope of Assessment** must be defined by the competent authority. It specifies the alternatives that will be further elaborated and problems that have to be tackled in the Environmental Impact Statement.
- Definition of the Scope of Assessment is based on the received standpoints from stakeholders on the Preliminary Environmental Study and should include a time table of the assessment process.
- Following the elaboration of the Scope of Assessment this has to be published, while the proponent is responsible for the publication in cooperation with the affected municipality.
- Public (as well as other stakeholders) is entitled to submit comments on the Scope of Assessment to the competent authority within 10 days from the date of its publication.

#### Environmental Impact Statement

- **Environmental Impact Statement** is the result of the impact assessment of the proposed activity. Based on the performed assessment, the proponent describes presumed impacts of the proposed activity on environment and measures for their remediation.
- The Environmental Impact Statement must be available to public for a minimum 30 days. At the same time a brief and comprehensive summary of the assessment has to be published including information, where the Statement is available for taking notes and copies. In case the project relates to several municipalities, the competent authority can decide that the Environmental Impact Statement will be made available only in some of them; however the comprehensive summary of the assessment must be published in each of the affected municipalities.
- Public as well as other affected parties can submit their comments on the Environmental Impact Statement within 30 days.

#### Public consultations

- **Public consultation** is the next compulsory step
- Public consultations can only take place after the Environmental Impact Statement was made available to public and the date must be published at least 10 working days in advance. Except for the affected municipality the proponent and the relevant public authorities participate in the consultations as well.
- Public consultations are organised by the municipality in cooperation with the proponent. Representatives of competent authority and affected authority are invited to participate. Minutes from public consultations have to be taken.
- Public consultations are of great importance as regards the possibility to express massive standpoint from affected citizens so they should participate in as much large numbers as possible.
- In case the planned activity affects more municipalities, one common public consultation for several affected municipalities can be organised.

#### Expert Review and Final Record



- After the elaboration and publication of Environmental Impact Statement the elaboration of an independent **Expert Review** follows. This takes account of public comments as well as the entire previous assessment process. The Expert Review serves as basis for the preparation of Final Record that will also be published.
- On the basis of the entire EIA process the competent authority issues **Final Record** providing whether the realisation of the proposed activity is or is not recommended. It identifies the most appropriate alternative for the activity and sets out the conditions for its realisation. The content of the Final Record must meet requirements set out in Annex 12 of the EIA Act. The Final Record includes information on the involved public in order to identify individual parties in the process by the decision-making authority. The Final Record is valid for 7 years.
- Final Record must be consequently made available in the affected municipality.

Public (i.e. citizens, municipalities, civic associations) is entitled to participate in consultations and in official public consultations (public hearings) for the proposed activity.





### C. PUBLIC GRIEVANCE FORM

#### Public Grievance Form Construction of line 2x400kV

1. phase: Križovany – Bystričany		2. phase: Bystričany – Horná Ždaňa	
<b>Full Name</b> <i>Note: you can remain anonymous if you prefer or request not to disclose your identity to the third parties without your consent</i>	<b>My first name</b> _____ <b>My last name</b> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to raise my grievance anonymously <input type="checkbox"/> I request not to disclose my identity without my consent		
<b>Contact Information</b> <i>Please mark how you wish to be contacted (mail, telephone, e-mail).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>By Post:</b> Please provide mailing address: _____ _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <b>By Telephone:</b> _____ <b>By E-mail</b> _____		
<b>Place of incident</b>	<b>Cadastral area</b> _____ <b>Locality</b> _____		
<b>Description of Incident or Grievance:</b>		What happened? Where did it happen? Who did it happen to? What is the result of the problem?	
<b>Date of Incident/Grievance</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> One time incident/grievance (date _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Happened more than once (how many times? _____) <input type="checkbox"/> On-going (currently experiencing problem)		
<b>What would you like to see happen to resolve the problem?</b>			

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to: Ing. Marián Sabol, SEPS, a.s. Mlynské nivy 59/A, 824 84 Bratislava, e-mail: [sabol.marian@sepsas.sk](mailto:sabol.marian@sepsas.sk), tel. no.: 02 5069 2931