Current Polish discussion on the shale gas project

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Estimated shale gas recoverable reserves (after Adv.Res.Int.)
Shales from upper Ordovician and lower Silurian periods
Administrative Structure

Ministry of Economy

- Mining Department
- Oil and Gas Dep.
- Energy Department

Ministry of the Environment

- General Directorate for Environmental Protection
- State Mining Authority
- State Geological Survey
- Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
- National Water Management Authority
- Department of Waste Management
- Department of Environmental Instruments
- Department of Climate Change and Atmosphere Protection
- Department of Nature Conservation
- Department of Geology and Geological Concessions
Legal framework

National level:

• Geological and Mining Law with its Regulations

• Act on Freedom of Economic Activity

• Act on Environment Protection Law

• Act on the Provision of Information on the Environment and its Protection, Public Participation in Environmental Protection and Environmental Impact Assessments

EU level:

From 2007 as of October 2011 the Minister of the Environment granted 104 concessions for prospecting and exploration of shale gas fields to giant oil/gas companies such as:

- Chevron Polska Energy Resources
- ExxonMobil Exploration and Production Poland
- San Leon Energy
- Realm Energy International
- Marathon Oil Poland
- PGNiG
- Orlen Upstream
- Lotos Petrobaltic
- Lane Energy Poland + ConocoPhilips
- Cuadrilla Polska
- Dart Energy (Poland)
- Talisman Energy Polska
- BNK Petroleum
- DPV Service
- Eni Polska
- Strzelecki Energia

Concessions for prospecting and exploration of shale gas
What volumes of gas can we expect from shale deposits?
So far we don’t know
Perspectives for shale gas – expectations

• First exploration well in June 2010

• There are 10 wells for shale gas exploration in Poland today

• First reserves estimations within next few years

• First potential production within next 10-15 years
Administrative decisions necessary for implementation of projects related to exploration and exploitation of unconventional gas deposits:

- Decision on the environmental conditions (if required)
- Concession for prospecting and exploration of minerals from deposits
- Approved documentation of the deposit
- Decision on the environmental conditions (if required)
- Concession for exploitation of minerals from the deposit
- Approved operational plan of the mine
- Decision on building and land development conditions (if no local zoning plan exists)
- Water permits
- Building permits
- Other decisions, including those related to waste management
Procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment


The Regulation of the Council of Ministers on the Projects that May Significantly Affect the Environment of 9 November 2010 (Journal of Laws No. 213, item 1397).
Projects that may significantly affect the environment require a decision on the environmental conditions.

The EIA for a project is performed within procedure to issue a decision on the environmental conditions.

This decision is required before obtaining the necessary administrative decisions.
Environmental Impact Assessment of a project

The procedure for Environmental Impact Assessment of the planned project includes in particular:
1. verification of the Environmental Impact Report
2. obtaining opinions and approvals required by the act
3. providing opportunity for public participation in the process

Within the assessment should be identified, analysed and assessed:
1. the direct and indirect effects of a given project on:
   a) the environment, human health and quality of human life,
   b) property,
   c) cultural heritage,
   d) interaction between above mentioned elements,
   e) access to mineral deposits;
2. possibilities and ways of preventing and reducing the adverse impact of the project on the environment;
3. required scope of monitoring.
Decision on the environmental conditions after the Environmental Impact Assessment:

- define the conditions for the use of the area at the stages of the implementation and operation or use of the project, with particular consideration given to the need to protect special natural values, natural resources and cultural heritage sites and to reduce the annoyances for the adjacent areas

- impose the obligation to prevent, reduce and monitor the environmental impact of a project.
Procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment for planned projects

A decision on the environmental conditions is required for proposed projects that may significantly impact the environment, which are defined in the above mentioned Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 9 November 2010.

Projects relating to exploration of unconventional gas field which can have a potential significant impact on the environment:

- prospecting or exploration of mineral deposits:
  - connected with geological works and the use of explosives,
  - on the maritime areas of the Republic of Poland,
  - performed by underground methods,
  - performed by drilling holes with a depth greater than 1000 m (§3 sec. 1 point 43, of the Regulation).

Other projects relating to infrastructure of exploitation of unconventional gas field may as well significantly affect the environment.
Projects with potential significant environmental impact

The Environmental Impact Assessment is optional.

The decision whether the assessment should be performed is made by a competent authority carrying out the proceedings at the initial stage – qualification for assessment (screening).

This decision shall be issued after opinions from the Regional Director for Environmental Protection.

If the Environmental Impact Assessment is required the competent authority defines the scope of the report at the same time.

Prior to the issue of the decision, the competent authority provides opportunity for public participation in the process.
The assessment of the impact of a project on Nature 2000 area

Proposed projects within the Nature
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