

Information for the attention of Implementation Committee, Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991)

To be sent through the Secretary to the Convention:

Mr. Wiek Schrage
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Office 407, Palais des Nations,
8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Genève 10, Switzerland
Tel.: +41.22.917.24.48
Fax: +41.22.917.06.13
E-mail: wiecher.schrage@unece.org
Website: www.unece.org/env/eia

Date sent to the Secretary	Not applicable.
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Sent by ("the source"):

Name	
Organization	UNECE secretariat
Postal address	
Country (State)	
Telephone	
Fax	
E-mail	
Website	

Concerning:

Party or Parties (States) of origin, under whose jurisdiction a proposed activity is envisaged to take place	Ukraine.
Affected Party or Parties (States), likely to be affected by the transboundary impact of a proposed activity	Republic of Moldova.
Activity (project), identified in the list of activities in Appendix I to the Convention	Appendix I, item 11: "large dams and reservoirs".
Likely significant adverse trans-boundary impact of the activity (project)	The water release regime might affect drinking water supplies and biodiversity downstream in the Republic of Moldova (and Ukraine).
Provisions of the Convention (Articles) compliance with which is being contested	Notification. Article 3, paragraph 1: "For a proposed activity listed in Appendix I that is likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact, the Party of origin shall, for the purposes of ensuring adequate and effective consultations under Article 5, notify any Party which it considers may be an affected Party as early as possible and no later than when informing its own public about that proposed activity".

Description of issue	<p>The planned “Dniester Pumped Storage Plant” (PSP), located in Ukraine, is part of the Dniester Hydro Power Complex, which is located in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova on the Dniester River. The hydropower complex includes the Dniestrovsky Dam with HES-1 hydroelectric station, creating the Dniestrovsky Reservoir. The water of the Dniestrovsky Reservoir is released into the Buffer Reservoir created by the Buffer Dam, where electricity is generated in hydroelectric station HES-2. The PSP will draw water from the Buffer Reservoir and store it in the Pumped Storage Reservoir...and then release the water back into the Buffer Reservoir to generate electricity”¹ (See Annex I.)</p> <p>The hydroelectric stations HES-1 and HES-1 have been operating from 1987 and 1999, respectively. The PSP is under construction (it was suspended in 1991 and resumed in 2001), and was 80% complete in January 2007². The PSP will include seven reversible turbines with a total capacity of 2268 MW. The Buffer Reservoir (approx 20 km long), from which the water will be pumped up and released, is shared between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.</p> <p>In October 2007, the <i>CEE Bankwatch Network</i> recommended the World Bank to withdraw the PSP financial consideration “until the project is brought in compliance with...international legislation”². In January 2008, the World Bank decided not to pursue the loan for the completion of the first phase of the PSP. On 29 July 2008, the President of Ukraine requested funds to the Ukrainian Prime Minister to finalize construction³.</p> <p>Decisions regarding the Dniester Hydro Power Complex flows and environmental issues are taken by inter-state commissions formed by representatives from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.</p> <p>The <i>CEE Bankwatch Network</i> highlighted, based on a the assessment from the Ukrainian Institute of Environmental Geochemistry, that “the Dniester PSP project sponsor Ukrhydroenergo denies the possibility of transboundary impacts in Moldova despite that its border crosses the territory of the PSP hydraulic complex”⁴. The same organization stated that “the Ukrainian government...did not notify the Republic of Moldova about the project prior to its authorization”.</p>
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¹ World Bank Ukraine (2007). Dniester Hydropower Complex - Pumped Storage Project Environmental Flows Analysis Final report.

² CEE Bankwatch Network (2007). Dniester Hydro Pump Storage Plant Completion Project. NGOs Issue Paper.

³ Korrespondent (2008). Yushchenko asked the Tymoshenko money for the construction Dnestrovskoy HPSS. Retrived in September 2008: <http://korrespondent.net/business/economics/537613>

⁴ CEE Bankwatch Network (2007). Dniester Pumped Storage Plant in the context of international agreements and standards. National Ecological Centre of Ukraine.

For use by secretariat:

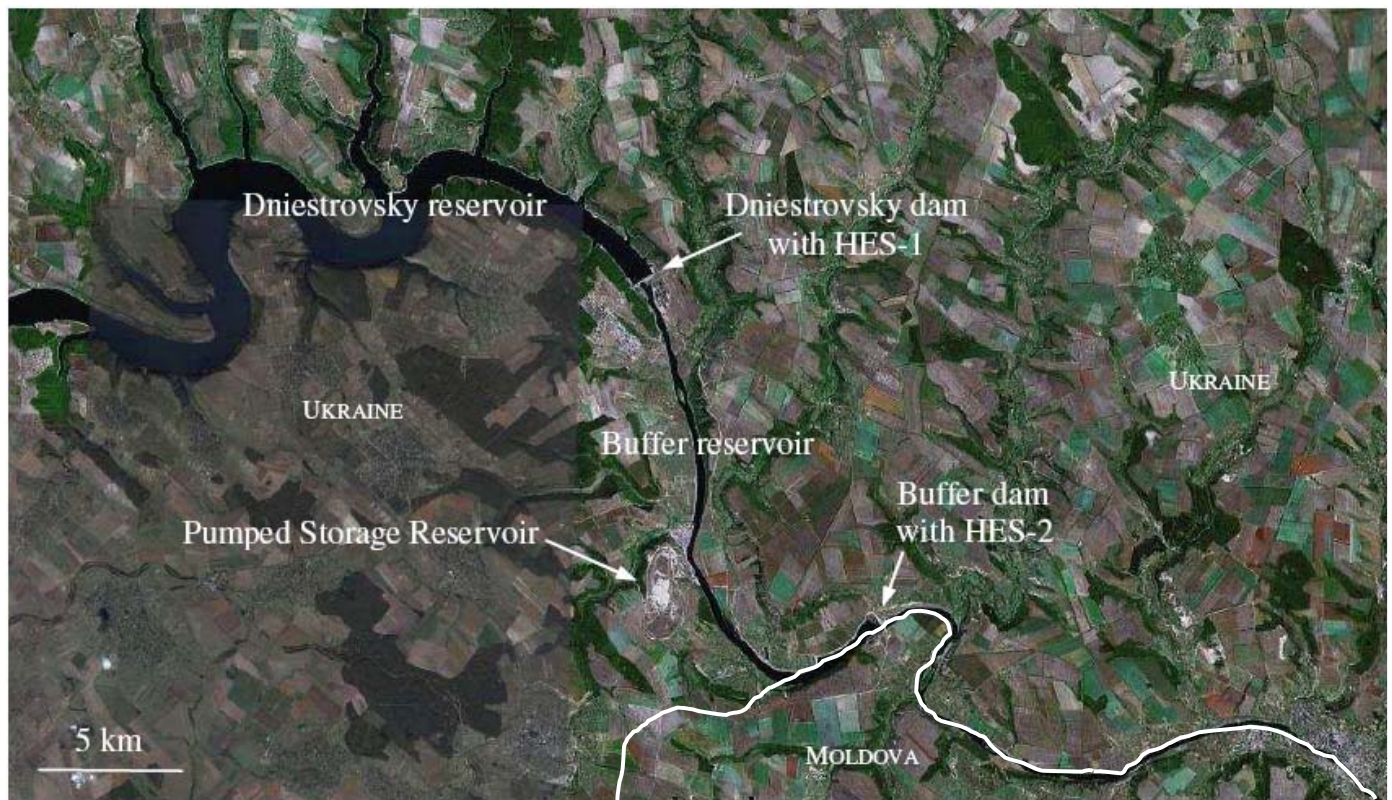
Reference number	EIA / IC / I /
Date received	Not applicable.
Original language of information	English
Translation into English by	Not applicable.
Date forwarded to Committee	
Date forwarded to Party or Parties	
Remarks by secretariat	The secretariat suggests requesting further information from Ukraine.
Date first discussed by the Committee (possibly including preliminary determination of admissibility)	
Additional information requested of source	

For use by the Committee:

The source of the information is known and not anonymous	
The information relates to an activity listed in Appendix I to the Convention likely to have a significant adverse transboundary impact	
The information is the basis for a profound suspicion of non-compliance	
The information relates to the implementation of Convention provisions	
Committee time and resources are available	

Annex I

Aerial view of the Dniester Hydro Power Complex⁵.



⁵ Adapted from World Bank Ukraine (2007) (Source image: Google Earth). The line representing the border was added with the only purpose of showing the general location. It could have small variations from the real border.