DEcision

ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF BUILDING AND EXPLOITATION OF 400 KV ELECTRIC ENERGY TRANSFER AIR LINE FROM ALYUTS TRANSFORMER SUBSTATION TO LITHUANIA-POLAND REPUBLICS' STATE BORDER


3. Name of the planned economic activity – building and exploitation of 400 kV electric energy transfer air line from Alytus transformer substation to Lithuania-Poland Republics' state border.

4. Place of the planned economic activity – Alytus district municipality Alytus, Krokialaukis, Miroslavas, Simnas elderates; Lazdijai district municipality Būdvytis, Krosna, Lazdijai, Lazdijai city, Teizai, Šeštokai elderates.

5. Description of the planned economic activity.

Lithuania – Poland electric energy link (hereinafter link LitPol Link) will be composed of about 150 km length double-stranded 400 kV voltage electric energy transfer air line from city of Elk (Republic of Poland) to Alytus, where transformer substation will be reconstructed and expanded by including a direct current insertion, which in turn includes existing 330 kV substation expansion and building of a new 400 kV voltage substation and a new direct current converter. About 100 km of the route will be in the territory of the Republic of Poland, through Podlaskie and Warmian-Masurian Voivodeships, while about 50 km – in the Republic of Lithuania, Alytus county Lazdijai and Alytus districts. In order to implement measure 3.1 of the National energy strategy implementation 2008-2012 plan, approved by the 2007 December 27th resolution No. 1442 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (published Žin., 2008 01 10 No. 4-131), – to connect electric systems of Lithuania and Poland and to connect to UCTE (today ENTSO-E Continental Europe network) it is designed: building of the 400 kV voltage double-stranded electric energy transfer air line (EETAL) from Alytus transformer substation to Lithuania – Poland Republics’ border, 330 kV Alytus transformer substation reconstruction and expansion by including a direct current insertion and building of a 400 kV transformer substation.

Reference route length: Route alternative A – about 45,5 km; Route alternative B – about 51,3 km; Route alternative B1 – about 49,0 km (about 24,2 km of the planned EETAL would run
along existing 110 kV AL). Number of links – 2, transmitted power 2 x 500 MW. EETAL start – Alytus TS Butkūnai vlg., Alytus dist. mun., EETAL end – state border of the Republics’ of Lithuania – Poland (north of Galadusys Lake, Lazdijai dist. mun.). According to needs and line configuration, several types of supports will be used. Particular types of supports will be clear only in EETAL technical design stage. Electric air line supports could be metal or reinforced concrete. Distance between supports avg. 330 m., in some cases could reach up to 600 m. Support height up to 73 m., average - 45 m. Support height, when distance between supports is about 330 m., could reach about 45 m., when distance about 400 m. – about 52 m., when distance about 200 m. – about 38 m. In some places, where it is necessary to protect wood areas or crossing bigger bodies of water, maximum specified support height is possible. Number of supports avg. 138 – 156 units. Installation of foundations for supports: fertile layer of soil of about to 50 m. x 50 m. (2500m²) could be dug out or pushed aside. In the area needed a pit for foundations is dug (depending on construction of the support it could be up to 15-20 m. x 15-20 m. (225-400 m²), up to 2.5 m. depth). Concrete foundations of the support are installed in the pit (already made segments could be brought or foundations could be cast on site). After foundation installation, pit is filled up with soil, site is prepared for installation of the support. Support can be brought in already assembled partial segments or fully assembled on construction site.

Alytus transformer substation expansion and reconstruction will cover existing 330 kV substation expansion, building of a new direct current converter, building of a new 400 kV substation, preparations for connecting two new 330 kV lines from Kruonis HAP, connection of a double-stranded 400 kV voltage line from Elk substation. Alytus TS 330/110/10 kV Alytus transformer station takes up about 5.4 ha territory. AB „Lietuvos energija“ controls by ownership right the land loss around the existing TS, which area is about 50 ha and on which installations and objects are planned.

Analysis of alternatives:

Planned economic activity alternatives: strategic, time, technological, place, environmental.

Strategic: in accordance with National energy strategy, approved by 2007 January 18th resolution of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania No. X-1046 (published Žin., 2007, Nr. 11-430) article 13 part 6 and article 31 part 3; in respect to measure 3.1 of the National energy strategy implementation 2008-2012 plan, approved by the 2007 December 27th resolution No. 1442 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (published Žin., 2008 01 10 No. 4-131) - electric energy link between Lithuania and Poland – building of a 400 kV voltage electric energy transfer air line “Alytus transformer substation – border of the Republic of Poland” is recognised as strategically important economic project for the state having importance for the society.

Time: All link’s LitPol Link (from Alytus to Elk) solutions are expected to be implemented up to 2015. Building of EETAL and Alytus TS reconstruction and expansion by insertion of direct current converter is planned to be implemented up to 2015. At this time project implementation time alternatives are not under consideration, it is expected to implement the project as planned in the time schedule. It is planned that EETAL in 2015 will work at 500 MW capacity, while from 2020 – at 1000 MW capacity.

Technological: LitPol Link project is an integral part of Lithuania’s electric energy sector’s strategic goal – synchronous work in ECN (European Continental Network). In order to synchronously connect to Western Europe’s energy system only alternating current can be used. Direct current (HVDC) link technological alternative is not possible.

Features of electric energy transfer by underground cable line: As a theoretically possible technical solution, possibility to lay an alternating current underground cable which would enable to connect Lithuanian energy system to ECN system synchronously was analysed.

This alternative cost is 15-25 times greater than air line, which 1 kilometre costs about 300-400 thousand euro. During the laying of the cable through the whole span 20 meter wide and 1.5 m deep trench is dug, it is forbidden to construct buildings over this area, grow any plants or conduct traffic. It is technologically complicated to lay cable over land (because of great cable mass transportation
wer roads is problematic) and cable is laid mostly at 500 m sections, which are joined together. Because of these connections reliability of the line is greatly reduced.

Possibilities of running in parallel and/or joining at some places of existing 110 kV and 10 kV AL and planned 400 kV EETAL were considered in PEA (planned economic activity) line sub alternative B1 two versions: 1) Joining of the lines at some places on the 24,2 km span. The existing 110 kV line would be removed and new dual 400 kV voltage and 110 kV voltage line would be built. 2) Running of lines in parallel on about 24,2 km span. On this section new 400 kV line would be built besides 110 kV line.

Alytus TS reconstruction and expansion by direct current inclusion technological alternatives: direct current converter technologies – thyristor technology, thyristor technology with capacitors and transistor technology were considered. Parameters assessed: environmental, general impact on electric system, it's operation and control, reliability/suitability, competition in the market, project cost and general risk/working experience.

Place: The search for most suitable zones while planning the PEA for EETAL was performed by gradual approaching, executing special plan conceptual solutions, SEIA (strategic environmental impact assessment) and PEA EIA (environment impact assessment) procedures. During EIA, PEA zones identified by SEIA report were compared among each other in the respect to impact on environment and impact on human health. The result of performed assessment is - one priority zone, most suitable for building EETAL. When explicating special plan solutions a specific trajectory for EETAL will be offered and discussed publicly. Considering society’s, interested institutions’ and other entities’ suggestions final EETAL trajectory will be identified. Alytus TS reconstruction and expansion land lot alternatives: 1) Considering environmental, land use and infrastructure factors, group of land lots, suitable for building a direct current converter, is at the southwest part of Alytus substation. 2) Considering advantages and disadvantages about the place of direct current converter, it is supposed that 1A alternative is most suitable and financially most effective. 3) Considering nearby residential buildings, existing air line positions and environmental factors, the biggest territory, which could accommodate technological equipment, was defined. Total prospective land area – about 90 hectares, which contains 11 private land lots. Building of a direct current converter and installing equipment related with that (400 and 330 kV substations, offices and servicing facilities, service roads, etc.) will require a land lot with a size of 20-25 hectares.

Environmental: PEA zone alternatives firstly were compared under these two aspects: 1) natural and social environment sensitivity and strain of the territories in the alternative zones; 2) PEA impact on natural and social surroundings. Having assessed all zone alternatives in respect to existing natural and social environment sensitivity and strain, it must be noted that under existing natural environment sensitivity most sensitive is PEA zone alternative B and under existing social environment sensitivity and strain, most sensitive is PEA alternative A. As a compromise in this view as to existing natural and social environment sensitivity and strain, most acceptable zone is zone sub alternative B1.

Choosing an optimal PEA zone alternative:

In accordance with data gathered analysing and comparing PEA zone alternatives following conclusions are drawn: 1) in accordance with existing natural and social environment sensitivity and strain, it is to be noted, that under existing natural environment sensitivity most sensitive is PEA zone alternative B (natural factor is dominating), while under existing social environment sensitivity and strain, most sensitive is PEA alternative A (social factor is dominating). This difference is quite strong. As a compromise in this view as to existing natural and social environment sensitivity and strain, PEA most acceptable is zone sub alternative B1, which is partly formed from parts of abovementioned zone alternatives A and B, and in accordance to rating criteria is between abovementioned zone alternatives; 2) in accordance to PEA impact, sub alternative B1 zone gained most relative value in respect to natural and social environment; 3) summarized assessment result established that PEA (for building of the EETAL) most optimal zone is sub alternative B1, if alternative of technical joining of existing 110 kV and planned 400 kV is
chosen. 4) PEA is possible in other zones of alternatives A and B, but PEA in them would be less acceptable; 5) assessing from the economic perspective (just building costs) most acceptable would be relatively shortest zone alternative A.

6. Description of measures designed to avoid negative impact on environment or description of measures to reduce, compensate or liquidate negative impact results.

During the implementation of PEA, to ensure the protection of soil the following organisational-technical measures in order to minimise/localise impact must be applied: 1) Organisation of works in respect to weather season (executing works during the cold season might cause less damage to the soil because of frozen ground) and in optimal used territory; 2) temporary digging out/removal of the fertile layer of the soil: after finishing the construction works, soil layer is returned to the formerly damaged area restoring the territory to the previous state (1995-08-14 Government of the Republic of Lithuania resolution No. 1116 “About damaged soil restoration and preservation of the fertile layer of the soil”); 3) Strict upholding of the environmental requirements during construction in order to avoid chemical contamination (accident) from mobile vehicles and equipment (STR 1.07.02:2005 “Ground works”); 4) formation of green areas in order to minimise wastewater and to improve the landscape.

Measures of minimising or compensating impact to landscape; 1) Design technical: 1.1) Choosing optimal technical solutions in connection with local area surroundings (for example, support placement, constructions, height, spacing between supports, colouring solutions). Stretches where EETAL can be distanced from residential buildings more than 250 m., if technical possibilities exist, reduce support height as much as possible (zone assessment sector, where is it recommended to use impact to landscape minimising measures – 45, 8, 13, 10, 9, 14, 18, 22, 28, 34, 36, 38, 43, 44, 0); 1.2) Stretches where EETAL can be visible from nearest and tourist visited hill forts, if technical possibilities exist (if not a corner support) and natural conditions permitting (for example, engineering – geological) it is recommended to design post supports; it is recommended that support places, which could be visible from hill forts, location permitting, be placed behind natural cover (for example, wooded areas) also from possible cultural real estate objects supports could be places using terrain (for example, between hills) (sectors - 18, 22, 34, 36, 43, 44, 44); 1.3) EETAL should not be planned through group I-II forests. AL planned through IV group (commercial purpose) forested areas only where it is unavoidable, respectively, conditions permitting, choosing places where saplings are growing or where forest was already cut (sectors – 8, 18, 22, 28, 36, 41, 43, 44). 2) Restoration, rehabilitation of soils and ground depths. 2.1) To fully restore areas (restoring to their original state) where digging, storing, transportation was performed or aeration zone ground and soil was damaged in any other way (all sectors where such damage was possible); Biodiversity. 2.2) prepare and execute measures for restoration of plant cover which would be based on former plant diversity re-naturalisation principles (for restoration plant seed mixes which are not common to the region are not used) (all sectors where such damage was possible); 2.3) on the route of the planned EETAL retain usual plant diversity: in agrarian territories to continue agricultural activities (tillage, meadows, pastures); in swamps preserve swamp plants; at the route going through forests, where forest cutting is unavoidable, use the clear spaces for growing of stunted woody vegetation (Christmas trees, forest plantations for seeds) (all sectors where such damage was possible). 2.4) restoration of destroyed areas used as dwellings, restoring meadows and swamp areas which are losing their natural conditions (all sectors where such damage was possible); Infrastructure objects. Fully restore infrastructure objects which might be damaged during the construction (amelioration systems, roads, removing temporary sluices, etc.) (all sectors where such damage was possible). 3) Compensational: 3.1) forest planting in other the areas and bigger than the forest was cut, near existing forest ecosystems (sectors - 8, 18, 22, 28, 36, 41, 43, 44 or with agreements with forest users where forest cultivation is allowed and specified by territory planning documents (for example, municipality general plans); 3.2) Restoration of meadows or swamps areas which are losing their natural conditions (all sectors where such damage was possible).

Measures reducing impact on plant cover diversity: 1) it is recommended to avoid possible impact of the designed electricity transfer line on forest dwellings and protected species (assessed 1, 2, 3,
0, 20, 30, 41 sectors) by choosing such electricity transfer line route that Sabališkės, Barkūnųkis, Trakelis and other forest areas would not be crossed. Route through Kalniškės forest (assessed sector 22) should go through sapling growth and areas where forest was already cut. 2) Impact of designed electricity transfer line for wetland vegetation (assessed sectors 2, 8, 10, 14, 18, 20, 21, 30, 34, 36, 38, 44) can be avoided by not disrupting the established hydrological regime in those areas, especially during the construction of the electricity transfer line (by installing temporary service roads, construction sites, etc.) 3) Impact of designed electricity transfer line for grass vegetation diversity (meadow dwellings) can be avoided by combining specific support placement and technological construction solutions during technical design preparation. It is especially important in assessed sectors 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 20, 21, 42; 4) it is recommended to prepare measures for restoration of plant cover damaged during the construction which would be based on former plant diversity re-naturalisation principles (for restoration plant seed mixes which are not common to the region are not used); 5) it is recommended that during the preparation of the technological design when choosing the specific route for the electricity transfer line, the support placement and technical solutions for technical design implementation (construction sites, soil storing places, service roads, vehicle parking places, etc.) consultations be held with vegetation biodiversity specialists. Upon choosing the precise route it is desirable to do the cartographic mapping of the vegetation on this route which would enable to take decisions in order to minimise impact on biological diversity; 6) it is recommended to plan for mandatory ecological supervision of technical design implementation. Reducing impact on live biological diversity: The main reducing measure is reducing the area of damaged or destroyed dwellings. Estimating that temporary construction sites will not be established on natural dwellings it is necessary to strive to reduce damages areas around electricity transfer line supports and, if necessary, installing service roads to the objects. In case of supports, the only measure reducing the destroyed dwelling area is the use of “pole” (mast) type of supports in place of usual frame type, the foundation of which takes up a few times bigger area. It is recommended to use “pole” type of support in wet meadows, floodplains and pastures, especially with limited area (for example, river valleys, natural meadows, etc.), also if electricity transfer line will go above forests without cutting the trees. In such case, even for 400 kV voltage line and installing sufficiently high poles above forests, clear area up to 10 m², which is not even considered clear cutting in accordance with forest law, is needed, in order to build the support. While if frame supports are installed, they take up much bigger area. There are additional technical requirements for “pole” type supports: certain surface geological composition (the soils must be “heavy”), it is not recommended to build them in a swamp, etc. In sensitive natural areas “frame” type supports, which one foundation platform is smaller than 10 m² must be built. Such support types are built in natural meadows, swamps and other sensitive natural territories, including forests, if clear cutting is to be avoided. Only “frame” type supports compared to “pole” type require two foundation pads, which causes additional difficulties when working in forests if the zone under the line is not cut clear. The woods must be chosen as young as possible since their ecological significance is much smaller compared to the matured forest. Smallest negative impact will be when young planted pines or fir trees are cut, thus they must be chosen in the first place. When cutting the forest, its restoration possibilities must be assessed, since some types of woods are restored with difficulty and only under certain circumstances (slopes, alluvial and other forests). Thus, when choosing the route for the line, it is necessary to assess the age, species composition, diversity and possibilities to restore woods that are to be cut. Suitable choice for woods to be cut is a very important impact reducing measure. If wood zone for the electricity transfer line is cut during bird nesting season, negative impact will be much greater (even if for short time) since here a lot of nesting wood pecking, sparrow and other forest birds would perish. Among them are forest bird species which are protected by Bird directive, included in it’s annex I: Hazel Grouse (Bonasia bonasia), European Nightjar (Caprimulgus europaeus), Black Woodpecker (Dryobates martius), Grey-headed Woodpecker (Picus canus), Woodlark (Lullula arborea), Red-breasted Flycatcher (Ficedula parva)
and others. However, if forests are cut at other than nesting times, these widespread species would find new nesting places for the upcoming season.

Measures of reducing impact to mammals: 1) perform construction during cold parts of the year, when animal young are almost grown (animal young, living on land will already be able to move away from moving mechanisms, moreover, when land is frozen there will be less damage to the soil surface); 2) use tracked vehicles instead of wheeled, if there is possibility to choose (there would be less possibility of death to mammals living in shallow caves or cave systems); 3) if works are performed in spring and summer, before the start of the day works, nature specialist-ecologist (possibly even with a hunting dog) should inspect the route section, where machinery will be used and remove further from the route the younglings of hedgehogs, hares, even-toed animals; 4) since negative impact for bats is theoretically foreseen because of magnetic field, impact reducing measure would be reducing of the force and area of the magnetic field in sensitive areas, where bat population is big. In this case the most important impact reducing measures are connected with support constructions, concentrating the lines in to fewer strands.

Measures of reducing impact to objects and places of cultural heritage: 1) perform architectural prospecting no later than 400 kV electric energy transfer air line “Alytus transformer substation – border of the Republic of Poland” construction special plan’s ending stage. This should be done in order to specify whether the EETAL’s protection zone, established at the solution implementation stage, of about 26 km section from the place where EETAL becomes separate from existing 110 kV line near Alytus and Lazdijai dist. mun. border to the border crossing point with the Republic of Poland, contains archaeological heritage objects, having landscape value (hill forts, tumultus’s, ancient fortifications, etc.). Having found out, that in the EETAL’s protection zone or at a distance up to 250 m. from it, there are archaeological heritage objects with landscape value, the revision of the route section should be worked out together with Ministry of Culture, Culture heritage department of the Ministry of Culture. 2) at the planning stage of the EETAL, when choosing a route and designing air line buildings, it should be taken into account that EETAL supports, service roads to the construction sites, should not be planned at the territories of cultural heritage objects or locations and their protection zones and that EETAL lines should not cross abovementioned cultural heritage objects or locations and their protection zones. Where protection zones for cultural heritage object or location are not set, EETAL route, as it is possible, should be moved to the maximum distance from the abovementioned objects (it is recommended not less than 250 m. from the described or possible to be described border of the territory of the cultural heritage object). If there are no technical possibilities for that and having in mind negative impact on society, natural landscape features cover should be used to reduce visual manifestation of the electricity transfer air line and it’s supports. 3) There is a possibility that while performing diggings during the installation of the electricity transfer line, unrecorded archaeological values might be uncovered. Thus, while performing diggings works it is recommended to perform archaeological research prospecting at the sites of the diggings. Having determined that there is a surviving archaeological (cultural) layer or archaeological finds at the place or works, adjust the design solutions in such way that this layer would be preserved in situ (at the place of the find). If there are no technical possibilities for this—the question of the research of the finds should be worked out together with Ministry of Culture, Culture heritage department of the Ministry of Culture.

Measures of reducing impact to public health: 1) set up an integrated EETAL protection and sanitary zone of 30 m. wide counting from the edge of the outermost line; 2) set up a sanitary protection zone, 16-160 m. for the reconstructed and expanded Alytus TS, new direct current converter and 400 kV substation. The zone should start from the transformers and filters, according to the acoustic noise distribution chart, only in case if there are no technical measures used to reduce above norm noise (for example, noise sources are in closed spaces, noise reducing walls are used) or other - if noise reducing systems are planned which would secure noise level of not above 55 dBA during the night at the edge of the planned lot limits; 3) to ensure due compensation for residents for their losses and restrictions of land use because of PEA.

7. Conclusions of the subjects of environmental impact assessment.
Administration of the Lazdijai district municipality in their 2010-10-19 letter No. 1-3045 approved the environmental impact assessment report with suggestions to augment the report and to present it to the repeated coordination, noting that coordination from the institutions responsible for health and cultural heritage protection are in order. EIA report organizer on 2010-10-22 by letter No. V1-2177 presented reply with arguments to the Lazdijai dist. municipality. Alytus regional environmental protection department (hereinafter - Alytus RAAD) in their 2010-11-18 letter No. ARV2-5-1635 addressed administration of the Lazdijai dist. mun. with a request to submit final conclusion about the possibility to build the electric energy transfer air line. Lazdijai district municipality administration on 2010-12-03 in their letter No. 1-3573 informed Alytus RAAD, that they partially do not object to planned economic activity, approve the environmental impact assessment report, i.e. the part of the report, where 400 kV electricity transfer air line coincides with the existing 110 kV electricity transfer air line route, going from Alytus towards Oleandriai substation. About the rest of the report the conclusion specified in the 2010-09-02 letter No. 1-2578 is pursued.

Cultural heritage department’s of the Ministry of Culture Alytus regional office on 2010-10-21 in the letter No. 2A-278 approved the environmental impact assessment report and planned economic activity. Alytus county fire and rescue board on 2010-08-31 in their letter No. 3S-538 approved the environmental impact assessment report and planned economic activity. Lazdijai fire and rescue service is a subdivision of the Alytus county fire and rescue board, thus they presented no separate conclusions. State protected territories service of the Ministry of the Environment on 2010-09-03 in their letter No. V3-10.7-1403 approved environmental impact assessment report (sub alternative B1) and planned economic activity, in accordance with conditions specified by the letter. Lithuanian geology service of the Ministry of the Environment on 2010-08-16 in their letter No. 1.7-1983 approved the environmental impact assessment report and planned economic activity. Alytus district municipality administration in their letters on 2010-08-23 No. (3.19) K26-2537 and 2010-11-11 No. (3.19) K26-3443 approved the environmental impact assessment report and planned economic activity.

Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania Alytus public health centre on 2010-08-27 by the protocol of normative documents and product hygiene inspection No. R1-973 approved the environmental impact assessment report and planned economic activity. The inspection was carried out by Alytus public health centre head of Lazdijai division, thus Alytus PHC Lazdijai division, as a separate subject of the environmental impact assessment did not prepare separate conclusions.

Administration of the Alytus county arrondissement was disbanded during the course of coordination of the EIA report.

8. Information and participation of the society
Information about the prepared EIA programme was published in newspapers on 2010-01-23 in „Respublika“, on 2010-01-22 in „Lazdių žvaigžde“, on 2010-01-22 in „Miesto laikraštis“, on 2010-01-22 on advertisement boards of Alytus and Lazdijai dist. municipalities and Alytus, Miroslavas, Kriokialaukis, Simnas, Lazdijai city, Lazdijai, Krosna, Šeštokai, Teizai and ir Būdvietės elderate advertisement boards, on the website of the project coordinator LitPol Link Sp. z o.o.: http://www.litpol-link.com/tr/aplinkosauga/pav-dokumentai/lituva/; on the web page of the responsible institution - Alytus region environmental protection department.

It was possible to get acquainted with the EIA programme at the office of UAB „Sweco Lietuva“, the EIA organizer; Alytus district municipality; Alytus, Simnas, Miroslavas, Kriokialaukis elderate; Lazdijai district municipality, Lazdijai city, Lazdijai, Krosna, Šeštokai, Teizai, Būdvietės elderate; on the website of the Project coordinator LitPol Link Sp. z o.o.: http://www.litpol-link.com/tr/aplinkosauga/pav-dokumentai/lituva/.


It was possible to get acquainted with the EIA report at the office of UAB „Sweco Lietuva“, the EIA organizer; Alytus district municipality; Alytus, Simnas, Miroslavas, Kriokialaukis elderates; Lazdijai district municipality, Lazdijai city, Lazdijai, Krosna, Šeštokai, Teizai, Būdvietės elderates; on the
website of the Project coordinator LitPol Link Sp. z o.o.: http://www.litpol-link.com/lit/aplikosauja/pav-dokumentai/lietuva/.


EIA organizer prepared a special informational booklet (1000 units), vividly and informatively describing planned economic activity, it’s possible impact, course of the project, possibilities for the society to get acquainted with EIA documentation and participate in the EIA process, which was distributed to the society at elerades and municipalities. Planned electricity line EIA results were presented on 2010-07-27 to the Lazdijai dist. mun. administration with participation from planned activity organizer, project coordinator, EIA organizer and members of the media.

Project organizers held two informational press conferences about the project: on 2009-05-15 in Jaczno, Poland and on 2009-10-23 in Alytus to create conditions for acquainting local government, society and nongovernmental organizations with the project, provide possibility to present remarks and participate in discussions at the early stage of the planning. The participants of the conference in Lithuania were members of Alytus RAAD, Alytus and Lazdijai district municipalities and elerades, Alytus county arrondissement administration, Metelai regional park, Lithuanian ornithologist association, media and other organisations.

The planned activity was publicised on 2010-06-29 in newspaper “Lietuvos rytas” website (www.lrytas.lt), Delfi website (www.delfi.lt), Cika website (www.cika.lt), on 2010-07-07 Lazdijai district newspaper website (www.dzukuzinios.lt), on 2010-09-07 on Lithuanian news agency „Elta” website (www.elta.lt).

Alytus RAAD on 2010-10-25 announced about the received EIA report on their website http://ard.am/lt/V1/index.php#a/515.

Alytus RAAD during the process of the EIA received the proposals from the interested members of the society. Alytus RAAD in accordance with article 10 part 4 of the Law on Planned economic activity environmental impact assessment on 2010-12-10 in a letter No. ARV2-51732 invited members of the society who presented proposals, environmental impact assessment subjects, organizer of the environmental impact assessment documents and planned activity client to arrive on 2010-12-17 to the Alytus RAAD and discuss the proposals that were presented by the members of the society (meeting minutes 2010-12-17, No. ARV4-18).

Society had the extensive possibility to get acquainted with the EIA documents.

9. International consultations. PEA does not fall into the list of activities specified in annex 1 of ESPOO convention (convention about environmental impact assessment on international level, ESPOO, 1991). However, in accordance with the agreement concluded between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland on implementation of convention about environmental impact assessment on international level (published Žin., 2004, Nr. 92-3353) article 1 clause 2 “agreement is applicable for planned activities, which might cause essential international impact and which under each state’s acting national law have to undergo environmental impact assessment procedures and planned economic activity environmental impact assessment documents have to be prepared”. Regarding the fact that even if PEA EIA will be performed in each state territory separately, but it has a contact zone between countries (actual border crossing point) and common for all project link LitPol Link execution vision, international consultations were started with the neighbouring country (the Republic of Poland) under ESPOO convention and states’ mutual agreement [28-30] requirements. Ministry of Environment on 2010-03-10 in the letter No. (10-3)-D8-2354 informed Poland, that Lithuania is planning to perform an environmental impact assessment of 400 kV voltage electricity transfer air line (about 50 km) construction from Alytus TS to Lithuania-Poland border. Poland’s general environment protection direction on 2010-04-09 in the letter No. DOOŚsaoos-082/118/10/pf informed the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of
Lithuania that it will not be participating in the evaluation of the environmental impact assessment’s about the planned 400 kV voltage electricity transfer air line (about 50 km) construction from Alytus TS to Lithuania-Poland border admissibility, will not be participating in the special plan’s strategic environment impact assessment. On 2010-04-20 at the Ministry of Environment a meeting between specialist from Poland and Lithuania took place. At the meeting it was decided that international environmental impact assessment procedures about LitPol Link electric link Poland-Lithuania will not be continued.

10. Conditions set in the decision
Constructed 400 kV electricity transfer air line cannot cross state Sabališkės pedological reserve, also supports cannot be installed there or soil damaged in any way.

No supports can be built in river protection zones and no construction sites built near the bodies of water and their protection zones. Temporary construction sites are recommended to be placed only in damaged, urbanised or agrarian territories.

During the construction of the object, small open water bodies (little swamps, pools of water) must be preserved.

Noise reducing technical measures must be planned in the technical project. These measures must ensure a noise level of no more than 55 dBA ant night at the edge of the planned lot limit.

Cut forest lots – must be restored, planting at nearby or other lots (in accordance with acting documents of territory planning) with coordination from forestry institutions and land owners.

On the planned route, where there is a risk of bird strikes on the lines in the forest, bright and clearly visible objects must be placed on the lines – spirals, plates, balls. In the forests and 1 km from them, on the routes over the forests, measures must be used to reduce bird deaths from electricity: prepare support constructions that birds would not be able to construct nests near electricity transfer lines; make unfavourable conditions to land on the supports, lines near the supports must be isolated so that landing birds would not have contact with electrical current.

In the special plan, visualisations are to be prepared with planned EETAL, proposed support types on the most valuable territories from the landscape point of view (near Rudamina, Vingrenai, Galadusys Lake north side and/or other picturesque places).

At the time of designing, constructing and exploitation of the 400 kV electricity transfer air line from Alytus transformer substation to the Lithuania-Poland border, make sure of implementation of the measures specified in the paragraph 6 of the decision on avoiding, reducing and compensating negative impact on the environment.

11. Main motifs on approval of the decision.
Planned 400 kV electrical energy transfer air line, connecting energy systems of Lithuania and Poland and connecting to the UCTE (Union for coordination of Transmission of electricity) is envisaged in the National energy strategy, in the general plan of the Republic of Lithuania. LitPol Link will enforce energy independence of Baltic States, will contribute to the single European Union electricity market and will increase reliability of energy supply.

Environmental impact assessment report and planned economic activity according to their competence was approved by all environmental impact assessment subjects – state institutions, responsible for health care, fire fighting, cultural heritage protection, administration of the Alytus district municipality. Administration of the Lazdijai district municipality approved planned economic activity party, presented remarks. Administration of the Lazdijai dist. municipality declined to participate in the meeting called before adaptation of the decision by the responsible institution.

Proposals from interested members of the society and Lazdijai district municipality on EETAL route planning through Marijampolė and Kalvarija municipalities’ territories exceed the territories controlled by the Alytus RAAD, i. e. EIA location alternative is proposed for territory controlled by more than one regional environmental protection department, thus Alytus RAAD would have no right to participate in environmental impact assessment procedures and the responsible institution in that case would be Environmental protection agency.
Environmental impact assessment report specifies measures of avoiding, reducing and compensating for negative impact on environment, cultural heritage, public health, and which are compliant with requirements.

Compensations for easements for construction and maintaining the line are provided for land owners where electricity transfer line will cross their land.

12. **The nature of the decision.** Construction and exploitation of the 400 kV electric energy transfer air line from Alytus transformer substation to Lithuania-Poland border is allowed in accordance with optimal route sub alternative B1, which was presented in the environmental impact assessment report.

Deputy director

Stasys Vanagas

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Translation from Lithuanian language into English language is correct and it conforms to the original document.

The translator is aware of the penal amenability as prescribed in the Art. 235 of the Penal Code of the Republic of Lithuania which provides for criminal responsibility for untrue translation.

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11 pages are stitched and stamped in this document.