Engaging with stakeholders: Adding value to the energy system

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Summary

- Who we are
- Our stakeholders
- The importance of stakeholders’ engagement
- PDIRT’s Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Results achieved
- Conclusions
WHO WE ARE
Concessions ● Mission ● Values

5 Public Service Concessions

Electrical transmission network (high voltage)
Natural gas transmission (high pressure)
Liquified natural gas storage
Natural gas underground storage
The most recent concession...

Wave Energy
Assure the continuous supply of electricity and natural gas, at the least cost, satisfying quality and safety criteria, keeping the balance between supply and demand in real time, and assuring the system conditions needed for energy market.
Security of Supply
Efficiency
Impartiality
Sustainability

WHO WE ARE
- Concessions
- Mission
- Values
The stakeholders engagement is seen by REN as an opportunity to accomplish the real perception of others regarding the impact of its activities on the society. It allows the company to improve its risk management and also to identify new business opportunities.

Building effective dialogue with stakeholders is regarded as a long term way of adding value to the organization.
OUR STAKEHOLDERS
● Identification ● Challenges & opportunities

Challenges
- Investment
- NIMBY
- NIMEY
- Number of stakeholders
- Needs
- Expectations

Opportunities
- Public service thought
- Our mission
- New communication tools
- OUR PEOPLE

Our Goal: MAKE THE BRIDGE
The importance of stakeholders’ engagement

In REN’s experience the essential requirements for a stakeholder to understand the problems and engage during the SEA process are:

- To conduct *specific* analyses including the effects of direct activities in order to establish different levels of development and environmental quality;
- To make information accessible for interpretation by different stakeholders from different sectors and disciplines.

Engaging stakeholders at SEA is important in order to adequately **integrate their knowledge and concerns** in assessing the impact significance and acceptability of proposed actions and mitigation measures.
PDIRT’s SEA

- The public participation process
- Methodology of analysis

REN selected as **main stages** of the planning and environmental assessment process, in which consultations and public participation is legally required and applied in practice:

- a consultation on the **scoping phase**, focused in the environmental authorities and specialized agencies or NGOs;
- a consultation during the **discussion of the SEA draft report**, extended to the general public;
- a consultation of the general public during the yearly **follow-up report**.

The **selection of the critical factors** for decision (CFD energy, wildlife and spatial planning) was checked and confirmed during the public consultation.
PDIRT’s SEA

The public participation process

Methodology of analysis

Contact was carried out mainly through:

- Written communications;
- Telephone calls attended by personnel with specific expertise;
- Advertisements, presentation sessions, press conferences and workshops.

2009-2014 (2019) PDIRT

- Environmental monitoring and assessment report (2009)
  - 300 entities consulted
  - 40 answers

- Environmental monitoring and assessment report (2010)
  - 290 entities consulted
  - 70 answers

2012-2017 (2022) PDIRT

- Environmental monitoring and assessment report (2010)
  - 370 entities consulted
  - 48 answers

All reports are available in www.ren.pt
PDIRT’s SEA

The public participation process  ●  Methodology of analysis

The methodology for the treatment of the results of the consultations included:

- Reception and registration
- Preparation of a table with the list of the results

The analyses of the contributions were grouped under 8 themes:

- The context of the decision and assessment;
- Scope and methodology of analysis;
- Energy;
- Fauna;
- Spatial planning;
- Strategic Environmental Assessment conclusions;
- Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Electrical Sector.
Results achieved

- Under the **CFD spatial planning**, and particularly in contributions from some local authorities, the concerns presented were related to the **presence of infrastructure of the RNT**.

- Several **agents of the energy market** presented opinions concerning the new transmission capacity planned for the RNT taking into account the needs of new planned production.

- Finally a significant part of the comments referred to the **EIA of projects**, which reveals some unfamiliarity with the SEA methodology.

The report of the public consultation have documented in detail the opinions, its analysis and individual answers.
Conclusions

1. The **diffusion of the information** have contributed to a **better understanding** by entities, authorities and general public.

2. Public participation has **improved the perception of the strategic importance of the projects** included in the transmission grid development plan.

3. The **improvement of the public awareness for the environmental impact of power transmission** contributes to the medium and long-term existence of stakeholders more informed and aware.

4. The public participation created a platform that **strengthened the dialogue** between REN and its stakeholders.
Conclusions

SEA influenced the principles and the concept of grid planning helping to set up dialogue at various levels:

- Technical dialogue between the SEA and planning teams, 
  Between private and public authorities;
- Between REN and the land use planning and/or 
  environmental authorities;
- As with NGO’s and the general public.

At the subsequent project implementation phase it is very important to keep all these communication channels.

As a result of this process, a more balanced, sustainable set of decisions on the development of the electric transmission grid in the PDIRT was achieved, taking into account not only possible goals but also the macro impacts from the expansion of the grid.
Thank you for your attention!

pedro.fernandes@ren.pt