RED ELÉCTRICA DE ESPAÑA

Grupo Red Eléctrica

Press release

Bolstering electricity supply and boosting renewable energy in Navarra.

The Network Development Plan with a 2026 horizon has been approved to drive a greener future for Spain

- The Network Development Plan 2021-2026 is a key instrument for developing the electricity infrastructure needed to continue guaranteeing the security of supply in addition to promoting the energy transition process nationwide to ensure that renewable energy will account for 67% of the national electricity generation mix by 2026.
- The drafting of the Plan has followed a rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure to ensure it is sustainable and environmentally friendly.
- The projects included in the Plan will contribute to achieving significant efficiencies and savings for the system as a whole, more than 1.6 billion euros per year. In addition, the investments will help boost Spain's recovery from the crisis.
- The Plan for Navarra will bolster the security of supply in the region, especially in the Tierra Estella area, with new infrastructure that will facilitate the region's economic, industrial and social development.

Pamplona, 22 March 2022

The Network Development Plan 2021-2026, which is binding for Red Eléctrica, has been given the green light after having been approved today by the Spanish Government following its presentation in the Spanish Congress of Deputies. With an investment of 6,964 million euros, this new Plan is a strategic instrument through which the necessary infrastructure will be developed so that Spain may continue to enjoy an electricity supply with high levels of quality and will allow further progress to be made in the decarbonisation of its energy model and in its fight against climate change.

In this regard, the actions included within the Plan will size and prepare the transmission grid in the coming years to be able to connect and integrate a higher share of renewable energy generation in line with the pace set by Spain's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and make it available to consumers. Thanks to the development of this infrastructure, it is estimated that in 2026 renewable energy will reach a share of 67% in the national electricity generation mix and will enable CO_2 eq emissions to be reduced by 66% compared to those recorded in 2019 (the year before the pandemic), provided that the NECP forecasts and the full implementation of this Plan are met. Similarly, the projects included in the Plan, will contribute to achieving significant efficiencies and savings for the system as a whole, more than 1.6 billion euros per year. In addition, the investments will help boost Spain's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

The planning process followed a rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure to ensure it is sustainable and environmentally friendly. It should be noted that the Plan took into account the environmental and territorial conditioning factors and has prioritised these aspects in the final design. Furthermore, the Network Development Plan 2021-2026 includes making greater use of the existing transmission grid, thus avoiding those areas that are most environmentally sensitive and reducing those actions that may have an impact on the territory. In fact, only 13% of all renewable generation expected to be connected by 2026 will require new transmission substations.

gabinetedeprensa@ree.es

www.ree.es/en > Press office

Tel. +34 91 453 33 33 / 32 81 - +34 91 728 62 17

The Network Development Plan 2021-2026 for Navarra includes actions that will significantly strengthen security of supply in the region, especially in the area of Tierra Estella and will improve the meshing of the transmission grid that connects the region with the Basque Country and Aragón, via two axes. This Plan will be a key vector for driving the green transition process in the region; a transition that is governed by the roadmap set out by the Regional Government of Navarra in their Energy Plan with a 2030 Horizon.

Strengthening security of supply in Tierra Estella

Among the projects included in this new Plan in Navarra, particularly noteworthy is the commissioning of the new 220 kV Tierra Estella substation and its connection via a double-circuit line with the existing 220 kV Muruarte substation. This infrastructure will bolster the security of electricity supply in the Tierra Estella area, improving its level of security and reliability and eliminating the supply problems that the area has had for years and allowing new consumption to be met in addition to opening the door to new opportunities in the area. In the future, these facilities could also be used for the evacuation of new renewable energy projects, as this is an area with high wind power potential, as highlighted in Navarra's Energy Plan with a 2030 Horizon.

The Network Development Plan also foresees works for the enlargement of the 220 kV Sangüesa substation that will enable the connection of a large power consumer that will require significant volumes of electrical energy. All the foregoing actions will facilitate the economic, industrial and social development of the region, making a significant contribution to helping tackle the demographic challenge faced by the region. The developments included in the Plan will also be key to facilitating the integration of new renewable generation capacity in Navarra. Specifically, they will make it possible to reduce the current and future limitations of the high-voltage grid that at times entail the need to curtail a part of the green production.

In this context, the construction and commissioning of the new axis that will facilitate the integration of renewables in the region and will improve the connection of the northern axis with the Mediterranean axis are particularly noteworthy. This corridor, which will represent an investment of over 65 million euros, includes the connection of the existing substation in Itsaso (Gipuzkoa) with the existing line in Navarra between Castejón and Muruarte. This project also entails the dismantling of two existing lines between Itsaso and Orkoien totalling a length of 120 km.

Similarly, between now and 2025, the Plan envisages an additional axis between Navarra and Aragon which will involve the construction of a double-circuit line between the 400 kV La Serna (in the municipality of Tudela) and Magallón (Zaragoza). Furthermore, works will be performed to increase the transmission capacity of several 220 kV lines in the area in order to bolster the electrical connection between two areas of the Spanish mainland electricity system that have a high level of renewable generation capacity and are undergoing significant industrial development.

The two new axes previously mentioned will enable the integration of up to 1,481 GWh of renewable energy per year, which would represent 7% of all solar photovoltaic production generated on the Spanish mainland in 2021. These axes would help reduce up to 261,000 tonnes of CO_2eq. emissions each year.

Lastly, the plan not only contemplates the enlargement of several substations to facilitate the connection of renewable energy but also the works to increase the transmission capacity of certain lines in order to maximise their use without the need for further developments.

A Plan conceived by all for society as a whole

This Network Development Plan is the result of the responsible and collective efforts of all stakeholders. The public administrations and the different agents of civil society have participated in its preparation, working together with a common goal: to build, together, a useful and valuable transmission grid for everyone. For the first time, the consultation process has been open to all citizens, companies and public administrations, whose high level of participation has demonstrated the enormous interest of society as a whole in the energy transition process.

- **More information at** https://www.planificacionelectrica.es /