AZERENERJI JOINT-STOCK COMPANY

Azerbaijan Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Project

(AZURE Project)

(P505208)

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

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Acronyms and Abbreviations	Definition
AZURE	Azerbaijan Scaling-up Renewables Energy
BESS	Battery Energy Storage Systems
CJSC	Closed Joint-Stock Company
E&S	Environmental & Social
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FPP	Focal Point Person
GBV	Gender-based violence
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GM	Grievance Mechanism
GoA	Government of Azerbaijan
GRC	Grievance Redress Commission
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GRS	World Bank's Grievance Redress Service
HPP	Hydro Power Plant
HR	Human Resources
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IFC	International Finance Corporation
JSC	Joint-Stock Company
LMP	Labor Management Procedure
MENR	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
MLSPP	Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population
MOE	Ministry of Energy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OE	Supervision Engineer
OHL	Overhead Lines
OHS	Occupational Health & Safety
OIPs	Other Interested Parties
PAPs	Project-affected parties
PER	Public Environmental Review
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PP	Power Plant
PR	Public Relations
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SCFWCA	State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs

Acronyms and Abbreviations	Definition
SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment
SEEA	State Ecological Expertise Agency
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SES	Stakeholder Engagement Specialist
SLCC	State Land and Cartography Committee
SOCAR	State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic
SPP	Solar Power Plants
SS	Substations
TOR	Terms of Reference
TPP	Thermal Power Plant
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VRE	Variable Renewable Energy
WAMS	Wide Area Monitoring System
WB	World Bank
WPP	Wind Power Plant

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) which has been prepared and will be implemented by Azerenerji JSC, in preparation for the Azerbaijan Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Project (AZURE Project), which includes the construction of a high voltage overhead transmission lines and associated 500/330kV Navahi Substation. The Azerenerji JSC (hereinafter "Azerenerji" or "the Client") is an Implementing Agency for the AZURE Project.

The AZURE project will have two main components:

Component 1: Absheron-Garadagh Wind Power Plant Connection and Transmission Network Strengthening. This component will support (i) the construction of a 330 kV transmission connection to evacuate power from the 240 MWac Absheron-Garadagh WPP and (ii) the 500 kV upgrade of Navahi Substation and related infrastructure for (i) the reliable N-1 evacuation of 1 GW of variable renewable energy connected to the Navahi substation, and (ii) the enhanced fluctuation management of 1.8 GW of VRE capacity in the system to ensure grid stability.

This component comprises the following:

- Subcomponent 1.1: Connection of Absheron-Garadagh WPP – 330 kV Part, including: (i) 65 km OHL single circuit 330 kV from Absheron-Garadagh WPP substation to Navahi substation (ii) 19 km OHL single circuit 330 kV from Absheron-Garadagh WPP substation to Gobu PP substation and (iii) 22 km OHL double circuit 330 kV from Navahi substation to Alat substation and (iv) expanding 330 kV bays at Gobu PP substation.

- Subcomponent 1.2: 500 kV Strengthening, including: (i) 235 km single circuit OHL 500 kV from Azerbaijan TPP substation to Navahi substation (ii) expanding the 500 kV bays at Absheron and Azerbaijan TPP substations.

Component 2: Project implementation support. This component will finance consulting, capacity building and auditing services to support the PIU in project implementation. The consulting services will comprise a Supervision engineer to assist the PIU with the implementation of component 1 and relevant technical consultants to support the achievement of project objectives. In addition, the component will comprise the expenses of the project's external auditor and capacity building to create an enabling environment to enhance the skills and career prospects of women in the energy sector.

The establishment and successful development of the AZURE Project will be an important part of the general policy of GoA, allowing Azerbaijan to become an important exporter of green energy to the international markets, with diversified and export-oriented economy creating high-added value, based on a world class attractive business environment, with modern energy, transportation, and logistical infrastructure. The Project will strengthen Azerenerji's transmission network, making it more reliable and capable of handling increased power flow and the fluctuating generation from the SPPs.

Associated facilities. The 330 kV part of the Navahi substation financed by the Government of Azerbaijan and the Absheron-Garadagh Wind Power Plant financed by Masdar are associated facilities to the AZURE project; accordingly, they would be required to comply with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF).

Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)/Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) were revised to reflect the new project scope description, impact assessment and mitigation measures.

The ESIA for the Banka and Bilasuvar SPPs has been developed by Masdar to meet the requirements of financiers such as EBRD, ADB, and AIIB. The ESIA for the Gobustan Wind Power Plant (WPP), which includes a bird monitoring report, is expected to be disclosed by Masdar in September 2026. This ESIA also adheres to the environmental and social policies of Masdar's financiers: ADB, EBRD, and AIIB.

Azerenerji has prepared the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the government-funded infrastructure in compliance with national regulations. To identify gaps in meeting the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) requirements and suggest corrective actions, Azerenerji has contracted independent consultants to conduct due diligence on both the government-funded infrastructure and the Banka and Bilasuvar SPPs as well as the Absheron-Garadagh WPP. The consultants have reviewed the respective ESIA reports and Contractor's ESMP for the Navahi substation, which construction had already been completed.

The Environmental and Social Due Diligence Report and Corrective Action Plan (ESDDR and CAP) has been finalized taking into consideration of World Bank comments. Construction at the Navahi substation completed, fulfilling the time-bound corrective actions specified in the ESDDR and CAP.

2. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The present document provides the principles, objectives and procedures to be followed by Azerenerji JSC to develop a strong and constructive relationship with stakeholders throughout the Project lifecycle, in line with the Company's Policies and in line with the World Bank requirements. Constructive engagement and continuous dialogue with stakeholders is an essential part of good business practices and corporate responsibility and is key to the success of any renewables integration project such as the present one.

The overall objective of this SEP is to define a program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation throughout the entire project cycle. The SEP outlines the ways in which Azerenerji's will communicate with stakeholders and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints about the project and any activities related to the project. The SEP specifically emphasizes methods to engage groups considered most vulnerable and that are at risk of being left out of project benefits. In addition, the Plan describes Azerenerji's roles and responsibilities, as well as how engagement activities are to be monitored and reported.

The objectives of the SEP are the following:

- Continuously informing the interested and affected parties about the Project-related development activities;
- Ensuring that the interested and affected parties are informed about the hazards associated with construction, operation activities of the Project and mitigation measures implemented by Azerenerji to reduce impacts where possible;
- Minimizing potential disputes between Contractors, service providers and the local communities;
- Incorporating local knowledge during the entire Project lifecycle, by taking into account bottom up information and feedback provided by interested and affected parties; and
- Timely and effectively responding to concerns of affected parties regarding the issues such as employment of the local workforce reserve in the construction and operation phases, disruption to daily activities, safety issues, disturbances due to noise or dust, and other environmental and social issues.
- Hiring of local workers, particularly those impacted by the project.

Stakeholder engagement must be performed according to a set of principles which overarch all activities and provide general guiding standards to which Azerenerji, Contractors and Service Providers must adhere in order to carry out an appropriate and effective process. The principles are outlined below:

- **Inclusive:** the SEP will ensure inclusiveness in the engagement with stakeholders in representation of views, including women, vulnerable and minority groups.
- **Accountable:** Azerenerji incorporates stakeholder feedback into the Project or program design, and report back to Stakeholders.
- **Appropriate:** Azerenerji will provide information in a format and language which is readily understandable and tailored to the needs of the target Stakeholder groups.

- **Relevant:** in its engagement with the stakeholders, Azerenerji will respect local traditions, customs, languages, timeframes and decision making processes.
- **Two-way:** Azerenerji will establish a two-way dialogue with stakeholders that will give both sides the opportunity to exchange views and information, to listen, and to have their views heard and addressed.
- **Proactive:** In order to avoid any potential risks that might arise in its dealings with the stakeholder, Azerenerji will be proactive in trying to manage such risks before they occur by offering opportunities for constructive dialogue.
- **Transparent:** Azerenerji will engage with stakeholders in an open process, with transparent purpose, goals, accountabilities, expectations and constraints. Azerenerji will provide Stakeholders with meaningful information on relevant aspects of project activities.

These principles have to be followed during all engagements with stakeholders and are applicable for all Project functions and contractors.

The SEP also sets out how Azerenerji will engage with stakeholders through the course of the Project. Stakeholder engagement is a key activity within projects such as the present one, because it creates an open communication channel with stakeholders, it ensures that stakeholders understand significant impacts of the project and it helps the sponsor address local expectations and incorporate feedback in the project design, overall fostering the achievement of a sound and comprehensive project.

The SEP covers the overall project activities, prioritizing those with potential environment and social risks. However, entry points will be explored in areas where development opportunities can be pursued through project's resources.

Sub-project and/or site-specific level engagement will be integrated as part of the overall design and implementation of the activities concerned. Depending on the typology of the sub-project activities, the expected level of engagement, as well as the approaches and modalities may be defined into i) strategic engagement and public consultations to inform policy development, institutional reform, and capacity building under technical assistance activities and ii) site-specific engagement for infrastructure investments both for rehabilitation and new construction.

The SEP is a working document that will be revised during the development of the Project. This SEP is the updated version that reflects project developments and covering stakeholder engagement activities throughout the ESIA process and throughout the entire lifespan of the Project (construction, operation and decommissioning phases). Subsequently it will be revised to reflect a list of planned meetings and other stakeholder engagement activities. As part of the impact assessment, which aims to measure and predict actual impacts, stakeholder engagement attempts to capture the perceived impacts of the project. For both the Government of Azerbaijan (GoA) and World Bank (WB) funded parts the ESIAs include a specific chapter to explain how stakeholder activities were implemented throughout the ESIA process, including Scoping Report, Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Labor Management Procedure (LMP) and Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) to deal with major environmental risks and impacts (such as air quality, noise-vibration, soil impact) and social risks and

impacts (particularly on sensitive reseptors on nearby communities, as well as land acquisition, compensations, land use limitations etc).

The draft Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) has been prepared in April 2026 by SRM, the Consultant to Azerenerji, in accordance with both national Azerbaijani legislation and World Bank ESS5. The RAP covers specifically the Subcomponent 1.2, which involves the construction of a new 235 km single-circuit 500 kV OHL extending from the Azerbaijan TPP substation to the Navahi substation. The line will be constructed parallel to an existing Navahi-Mingachevir OHL across predominantly flat and gently rolling agricultural terrain. Construction is scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2026 and to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2027.

The SEP has been updated in line with the RAP, to reflect outcomes/feedbacks of consultations conducted as part of RAP preparation and disclosure process to ensure systematic, inclusive, and timely engagement with PAPs and other relevant stakeholders impacted by land acquisition.

This SEP may be subject to another revision due to any deviations to routings to ensure affected and interested parties are captured and informed about the project and risks including GRM. The other lines supported by the Project is subject to the second separate RAP, and the SEP will be updated accordingly.

Key areas where stakeholder engagement and outreach will be prioritized include:

a. Management of potential adverse impacts associated with the project's activities.

Such impacts include:

Environmental impacts during construction will relate to: (i) generation of various streams of construction wastes; (ii) emissions, noise and vibration from the construction machinery also causing disturbance to neighbouring communities; (iii) disturbance to flora and fauna in the project area, access roads and associated facilities confirmed for the purposes of E&S due diligence; (iv) disturbance to biodiversity assets of the Turianchay State Reserve located in the vicinity to the project area, and the Shirvan National Park located in the vicinity to the associated facilities; (v) risks of habitat loss due to clearing of vegetation for the construction of towers and stringing of transmission lines; (vi) disruption to migratory birds' breeding and feeding, fragmentation and disrupting of migratory bird pathways; (vii) increased sediment into sensitive wetlands and water courses due to earthworks, disturbing aquatic ecosystems and water regime. During operation, overhead transmission lines pose a collision for migratory birds. Birds landing on electrical substations or transmission structures may be at risk of electrocution. There will also be risks due to the impacts of the electromagnetic radiation from the transmission lines and other associated equipment such as transformers, use and discharge of water used in the production cycle, and those related to the OHS. There are also environmental aspects associated with the TA aimed to enable more variable renewable energy (VRE) integration into the national power system, building national capacity for scaling up the use of VRE and operating of the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

To strengthen the biodiversity baseline and further assess potential impacts on sensitive receptors, additional biodiversity studies were undertaken by the Ornithological Association as part of the ESIA update process. These studies included autumn and winter migratory bird surveys, winter Little Bustard mortality surveys, spring bird migration surveys, spring Little Bustard migration and mortality surveys, and botanical investigations within the project area. The studies focused on identifying migratory pathways, seasonal patterns of bird movement, collision risks associated with existing transmission infrastructure, the presence of species of conservation concern, and habitats of ecological significance. The winter mortality surveys assessed collision-related mortality of Little Bustards and other bird species under existing power lines, while the botanical surveys identified priority plant species and provided recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts through micro-siting of transmission towers, access roads, equipment staging areas, and other construction footprints.

The findings of these studies were incorporated into the updated ESIA, including the ESMP and Biodiversity Management Plan. The updated assessments informed the refinement of mitigation measures, including restrictions on construction activities in ecologically sensitive areas during critical seasonal periods and the installation of bird flight diverters on transmission lines in identified migration corridors. Additionally, measures prohibiting unauthorized collection of, or damage to, flora by project personnel, as well as the integration of biodiversity considerations into construction planning and segmentation strategies, were incorporated into the Project's environmental and social management framework.

The outcomes of the supplementary biodiversity assessments and critical habitat investigations, together with the corresponding mitigation hierarchy and management commitments, were disclosed through the updated ESIA documentation. The winter and spring biodiversity study reports, including their findings and recommendations, will also be disclosed through the Azerenerji Official Website by the end of June 2026 to ensure continued transparency and stakeholder access to updated biodiversity information. The updated biodiversity information and commitments will guide subsequent monitoring activities during construction and operation to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures and enable adaptive management where necessary.

Potential social risks and impacts include: (a) adverse impacts to disadvantaged/vulnerable communities depending on siting choices; (b) labour and working conditions risks during construction and operation; (c) community health and safety risks during construction and operation; (d) sexual exploitation and abuse/sexual harassment (SEA/SH) risks primarily during construction depending on the size and sourcing of the workforce; (e) permanent and temporary land acquisition or easement restrictions impacting livelihoods; (f) risks of physical resettlement; (g) risks to cultural heritage; and (h) risks relating to inadequate stakeholder engagement and grievance management.

The RAP identified the risks and impacts related to land acquisition as follows:

In line with the RAP findings, while permanent land acquisition is limited in scale and is not expected to significantly affect livelihoods, temporary impacts during construction—particularly those affecting agricultural production—represent the primary source of livelihood risk and will require careful management and mitigation.

Key Livelihood Risks include: (a) loss of productive perennial trees within pylon footprints and access corridors; b) long-term income loss due to delayed maturity of replanted perennial crops; (c) temporary disruption of harvest cycles during construction activities; (d) reduced agricultural productivity caused by soil compaction and disturbance to adjacent plots; (5) restricted land use within the Project area; (6) temporary loss of land access during construction; (7) loss of crops and trees; (8) limited impacts on non-residential structures; (9) concerns regarding adequacy of asset valuation and compensation for productive income losses.

b. Enhancement of potential development opportunities and social acceptance. The project may establish additional measures to enhance participation and access to benefits for local communities including women and vulnerable groups, including but not limited to poor households, the elderly, people with disability. These may be explored through:

- increased local employment
- Improved road infrastructure in the villages
- Increased reliability of electricity supply
- New businesess that will prefer clean energy as a source of their energy supply offering new jobs for nearby communities

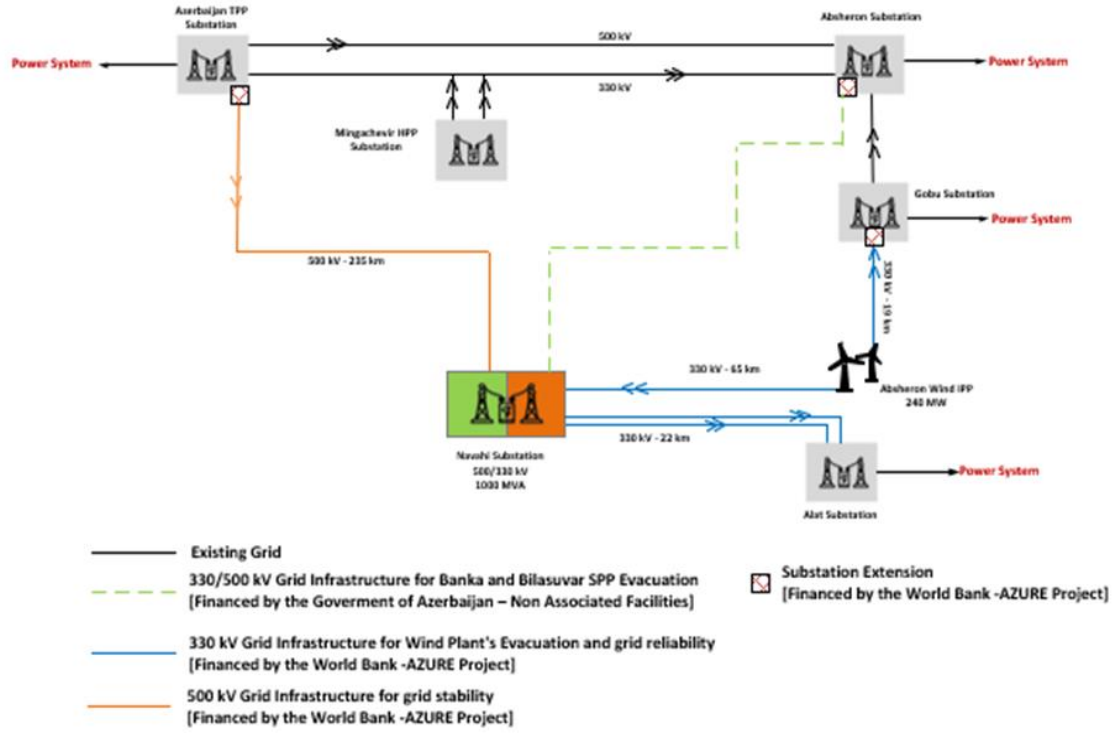
All stakeholders are invited to review and provide feedback on this SEP.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Overview

The AZURE project (see Figure 1 below) aims to strengthen Azerbaijan's power grid to enable the evacuation of the 240 MWac Absheron-Garadagh WPP, ensure the reliable N-1 evacuation of 1 GW of variable renewable energy (760 MWac of solar PV and 240 MWac Absheron-Garadagh WPP) connected to the Navahi substation, and improve grid stability for the integration of 1.8 GW of VRE capacity in Azerbaijan's power system.

Figure 1: Overview of the revised AZURE Project scope and associated facilities



The Government of Azerbaijan (GoA) in partnership with Masdar plans to develop 1 GW of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE), including: (i) the 445 MW Bilasuvar Solar Independent Power Project (ii) the 315 MW Banka Solar IPP, and (iii) the 240 MW Absheron-Garadagh Wind PP. To adhere to the contractual timelines of the Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for the two solar IPPs and expedite the implementation of the necessary connection infrastructure, the GoA will finance the minimal infrastructure required for energy evacuation from the solar IPPs during normal operations (See Figure 2 below). The planned infrastructure includes (i) a 330 kV substation at Navahi (ii) A 90 km double-circuit 330 kV transmission line from the Bilasuvar Solar IPP to the Navahi substation (iii) An 80 km double-circuit 330 kV transmission line from the Banka Solar IPP to the Navahi substation (iv) A 65 km 500 kV transmission line from the Navahi substation to the Absheron substation.

The AZURE project financed by the World Bank

Component 1: Absheron-Garadagh Wind PP Connection and Transmission Network Strengthening (US$ 168.4 million). This component willfinance (i) the construction of a 330 kV transmission connection to evacuate power from the 240 MWac Absheron-Garadagh Wind PP, and (ii) the 500 kV upgrade of Navahi Substation and related infrastructure for (i) the reliable N-1 evacuation of 1 GW of variable renewable energy connected to the Navahi substation, and (ii) the enhanced fluctuation management of 1.8 GW of VRE capacity in the system to ensure grid stability.

Transmission Lines and substations
(i) Construction of 500 kV single-circuit Azerbaijan TPP - Navahi SS OHL - 235 km
(ii) Construction of 330 kV single-circuit Gobustan WWP to Gobu PP substation - 19 km
(iii) Construction of 330 kV single-circuit Gobustan WPP - Navahi SS OHL - 65 km
(iv) Construction of 330 kV double-circuit Alat substation-Navahi substation OHL – 22 km
(v) Supply and installation of two sets of 500 kV transformers at Navahi SS
(vi) Supply and installation of reactor at Navahi SS
(vi) Expansion of 500 kV bays at Azerbaijan TPP substation
(vii) Expansion of330 kV bays at Gobu PP substation

Component 2:

Consultant Services
- Engagement of Supervision Engineer (Component 1)
- External audit of project accounts (for three years)

4. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

4.1. National Legal Requirements on Citizen Engagement and Disclosure

Pertinent to the Stakeholder Engagements, the Constitution of Azerbaijan as the fundamental law of the land, among others, establishes the legislative principle for the engagement of the citizens in political and civil life of Azerbaijan; thus, provides for the following:

- The Right to civil participation is stipulated in Article 54.1 - “right of citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan to participate in the political and civic life without impediments”.
- Freedom of Information – The Constitution guarantees the right to information in three aspects:
  i. Article 39 (Right to live in a healthy environment) – “Everyone has the right to gain information about the true ecological situation and to get compensation for damage done to his/her health and property because of violations of ecological requirements”;
  ii. Article 50 (Freedom of Information) – provides that − Everyone is free to look for, acquire, transfer, prepare and distribute information; − Freedom of mass media is guaranteed. State censorship in mass media, including press is prohibited.
  iii. Article 57 para 1 - which gives citizens the right to petition state bodies.

Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan No 1308-IVQ dated September 30, 2015 “On Citizens’ Appeals”

According to the law, any citizen has a right to appeal to state and municipal bodies, and to legal entities owned by state or municipality, in written or oral form and these appeals have different procedure from appeals to Ombudsman or information requests, and may not be anonymous.

Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated September 30, 2005 “On the right to obtain information”.

This Law establishes the legal framework for ensuring free, unrestricted and equal information access as prescribed by Article 50 of the Constitution, whereby any person is entitled to apply directly or via his /her representative to the information owner and to choose the type and form for obtaining the information.

Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan № 816-IVQ (November 22, 2013) “On public participation”.

This law provides the framework and regulates the involvement of citizens in the implementation of state management in accordance with the Article 49 (Freedom of assembly) of the Constitution. The law stipulates that public participation consists of:

- Participation in various areas of state and public life, the preparation and implementation of the state policy and the adoption of national and local decisions;

- Participation in public control over the activity of central and local executive authorities, local self-government bodies;
- Participation of civil society institutions in the process of consultations of state and local selfgovernment bodies with the public and in the study of public opinion (through Public Councils).

The law considers the following forms of public participation:

- Public Councils under central and local executive authorities, local self-government bodies;
- Public discussions during the adoption of decisions of public important;
- Public hearings on draft legal acts and different issues of state and public life;
- Study of public opinion;
- Public discussion of draft legal acts;
- Written consultations on the study of opinions of civil society institutions on draft legal acts.

In addition to the described legislative acts, the environmental and social impact assessment process also should include disclosure and stakeholder engagement activities, as per Azerbaijan legislation.

The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA Law, 2018) covers scope, procedure and responsibilities for Environmental Impact Assessment, as well as public consultation and disclosure requirements during environmental assessment.

According to the Law the Client (Implementing Agency) has to inform the local population and society in the project area through the media and public hearings and inform them of the results of the EIA before committing the intended activity (Article 12.1.4).

The Client should conduct public hearings in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Public Participation” and involve individuals, legal entities, as well as property owners (Article 4.10). Information on the results of the public hearings and discussions should be included in the EIA document (Article 5.3.12).

The law also specifies the responsibilities of municipalities for the public hearing activities (Article 11). Thus, the relevant municipality in the area, where the project (or intended activity) is implemented, must take part in the implementation of the EIA and provide the necessary information required for the preparation of the EIA document.

In addition, the municipalities should assist people and legal entities, real estate owners, as well as other stakeholders (non-governmental organizations, citizens' initiative groups and neighborhood committees of municipalities, etc.) to participate in public consultations, if requested by them. In addition, people and civil society institutions have the right to request the client and the planning organization to hold public hearings on the EIA (13.2.2).

In addition, people and civil society institutions have the right to request the client and the planning organization to hold public hearings on the EIA (13.2.2).

Similarly, Article 15 of the Law on Acquisition of Land for State Needs (2010) requires public meetings on social impacts. Public meetings should be organized and documented by the Client. The objectives of these consultations are to listen and record any statements or objections made by local residents, interested person or representative of the organization on the issues related to the proposed project, and to discuss alternative proposals, as well as to inform the society on the grievance redress process and other related matters.

The law also stipulates a requirement for disclosure of the land acquisition and resettlement related information and documents through public consultation and official announcements. Specifically, article 14 demands the Client to disseminate an official announcement on the affected land/property in the area where the affected lands are located and shall take all measures to deliver this announcement to the affected persons.

The above legislations are considered positive steps in ensuring engagements of the general citizenry on matters of public interest. However, a study[1] on Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making in Azerbaijan stated the following observations:

- Notwithstanding reference to Public Environmental Review (PER), the Law on Environmental Protection does not provide any connection between public participation process and decision-making other than stating that "Findings of PER have recommendational and informational character.
- Legislative and regulatory frameworks also lack clear procedures for holding public hearings on environmental matters
- The study further recommends that these gaps require existing legislative and regulatory frameworks' further revision and development for conforming to the Århus Convention.

As a step forward, Azerenerji has taken cognizance of the above relevant legislations and notations to ensure that legal requirements on citizen engagement and disclosure are complied with.

The SEP has been updated to reflect the current status of the Project, the revisions to the ESIA, in particular engagement with regards to environmental updates including biodiversity, support the transition into the construction phase, incorporate stakeholder engagement activities undertaken during RAP preparation, and define engagement measures for RAP implementation.

4.2. International standards

World Bank requirements for stakeholder engagement

The World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) came into effect on October 1, 2018. The Framework includes Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 10, "Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure", which recognizes "the

[1]https://www.academia.edu/44606336/Public_Participation_in_Environmental_Decision_making_The_case_of_Azerbaijan

importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice". ESS10 emphasizes that effective stakeholder engagement can significantly improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation. As defined by ESF and ESS 10, stakeholder engagement is an inclusive process conducted throughout the project life cycle. Where properly designed and implemented, it supports the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships that are important for successful management of a project's environmental and social risks. Key elements of ESS10 include:

- Stakeholder engagement is most effective when initiated at an early stage of the project development process, and is an integral part of early project decisions and the assessment, management and monitoring of the project.
- Borrowers will engage with stakeholders throughout the project life cycle, commencing such engagement as early as possible in the project development process and in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design. The nature, scope and frequency of stakeholder engagement will be proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts.
- Borrowers will engage in meaningful consultations with all stakeholders. Borrowers will provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.
- The process of stakeholder engagement will involve the following, as set out in further detail in this ESS: (i) stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) planning how the engagement with stakeholders will take place; (iii) disclosure of information; (iv) consultation with stakeholders; (v) addressing and responding to grievances; and (vi) reporting to stakeholders.
- The Borrower will maintain and disclose as part of the environmental and social assessment, a documented record of stakeholder engagement, including a description of the stakeholders consulted, a summary of the feedback received and a brief explanation of how the feedback was taken into account, or the reasons why it was not.

ESS10 par. 21 stresses on the need for meaningful consultation "in a manner that provides stakeholders with opportunities to express their views on project risks, impacts, and mitigation measures, and allows the Borrower to consider and respond to them Meaningful consultation will be carried out." ESS10 par. 21 elucidates "meaningful consultation" as a two-way process, that:

(a) Begins early in the project planning process to gather initial views on the project proposal and inform project design;
(b) Encourages stakeholder feedback, particularly as a way of informing project design and engagement by stakeholders in the identification and mitigation of environmental and social risks and impacts; on an ongoing basis as the nature of issues, impacts and opportunities evolves;
(c) Continues on an ongoing basis, as risks and impacts arise;
(d) Is based on the prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant, transparent,

objective, meaningful and easily accessible information in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders in a culturally appropriate format, in relevant local language(s) and is understandable to stakeholders;

(e) Considers and responds to feedback;

(f) Supports active and inclusive engagement with all project-affected parties;

(g) Is free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation; and

(h) Is documented and disclosed by the Borrower.

5. OVERVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT TO DATE

The Ministry of Energy (MoE), who guides Azerenerji has ongoing relations and open communication channels with a number of stakeholders related with the Project.

This SEP builds on the existing engagement activities that have been established and/or performed by Azerenerji/PIU to date. Such engagement includes:

- Letter was sent to State Ecological Expertise Agency (SEEA) of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) for discussing the Scoping Report content and Terms of Reference (TOR) for ESIA
- Letter was sent to State Ecological Expertise Agency (SEEA) of MENR for discussing the Scoping Report content and TOR for ESIA
- A meeting was held with deputy chairman of SEEA and relevant staff where the scoping report content and routes of OHLs presented to the audience and raised questions were answered accordingly by PIU staff
- Letter was sent to the State Land and Cartography Committee (SLCC) with the request of submission cadastral information with regard to land ownership status along the proposed alignments of 8 OHLs covered by the Project.
- Letter was sent to the State Land and Cartography Committee (SLCC) with the request of submission new format (national) land title document for assigned territory of Navahi substation based on old soviet type land title document issued to Azerenerji JSC in 1980s for construction of nuclear power station.
- A meeting was held with the management of SLCC to discuss the alignments and establish priorities for submission of information requested for the Project's OHLs
- Letter was sent to the Chief of State Service for Protection, Development and Restoration of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture with request of submission of available data and list of cultural heritage objects along the proposed routes of OHLs
- Azerenerji applied to State Agency on Protection of Strategical Objects for obtaining technical conditions for crossing the railway lines by OHLs across the Project covered regions. The respective technical conditions were provided by the Agency and transferred to the design team for consideration in design of OHLs
- Azerenerji applied to State Agency on Protection of Strategical Objects for obtaining technical conditions for crossing the railway lines by OHLs across the Project covered regions. The respective technical conditions were provided by the Agency and transferred to the design team for consideration in design of OHLs
- Azerenerji applied to State Agency on Water Reserves for obtaining technical conditions for crossing the river and channels by OHLs across the Project covered regions. The respective technical conditions were provided by the Agency and transferred to the design team for consideration in design of OHLs
- Azerenerji applied to Azerbaijan Railways CJSC for obtaining technical conditions for crossing the railway lines by OHLs across the Project covered regions. The respective technical conditions were provided by the Azerbaijan Railways CJSC and transferred to the design team for consideration in design of OHLs
- Azerenerji applied to SOCAR for obtaining technical conditions for crossing the oil and gas pipelines by OHLs across the Project covered regions. The respective technical conditions were provided by the SOCAR and transferred to the design team for consideration in design of OHLs
- Azerenerji applied to BP for obtaining technical conditions for crossing the oil and gas pipelines by OHLs across the Project covered regions. The respective technical conditions were provided by the BP and transferred to the design team for consideration in design of OHLs

- A meeting was held with chairman of Navahi village municipality to inform the construction of Navahi SS/associated OHLs and discuss their concerns, collect baseline data
- In April 2026, a meeting was held with the SEEA of MENR regarding the review and approval of the Project's ESIA report. During the meeting, key environmental and social aspects of the Project, including compliance with national legislation, international standards, and proposed mitigation measures were discussed. Following the review process, the ESIA report was officially approved by the Agency and the State Ecological Expertise Opinion for ESIA of AZURE project has been issued by the Agency on 13 May 2026.
- In October 2025 and again on 6 May 2026, coordination meetings were conducted with Masdar lenders and representatives from relevant stakeholders including representatives of the AREA and the MoE, to provide updates on implementation status and overall progress of the Project. The meetings provided an important platform for open discussion, information sharing, and addressing questions related to project risks, environmental and social performance, and future implementation plans.
- Azerenerji completed coordination of the routes of OHLs with relevant state authorities, including SOCAR, Azerbaijan Railways, Azerishig, Azersu, Ministry of Digital Development and Transport, State Automobile Roads Agency, etc. and obtained related consents.
- Throughout the RAP preparation and disclosure periods, the PIU conducted interviews with all heads of municipality/village (45 villages) chairmen in affected districts;
- Within the scope of the household surveys, interviews were conducted with 15 individuals from the vulnerable group of 115 identified in the vulnerability screening.

All letters addressed to the stakeholders so far were duly responded by the respective agencies and the responses has played a crucial role on design of project OHLs with respect to their alignments.

6. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

Stakeholders are individuals or groups who can affect, or are affected by, or have a legitimate interest in the Project results and performance. Some stakeholders are obvious, such as government authorities responsible for permitting and local communities adjacent to the Project. However, preliminary stakeholder identification intends to include other groups, organizations and individuals that may not appear to be directly involved. Health professionals and educators, for example, may not be directly involved in the Project development, but are familiar with the existing community and socio-economic dynamics and can help improve the quality of impact analysis. Such consultation also helps ensure that mitigation and social investment are coordinated with existing initiatives. Expanding stakeholder identification beyond government and local residents increases the likelihood that a wide representation of interests and opinions will be considered in the development of the Project.

During the preparation of the RAP for Subcomponent 1.2., it was identified that the transmission line traverses eight regions in central and eastern Azerbaijan — Aghdash, Aghsu, Goychay, Hajigabul, İsmayilli, Mingachevir, Shamakhi, and Yevlakh — passing through 64 settlements and 44 non-residential areas defined as “grazing areas”, for a total of 110 distinct locations.

The Project will affect a total of 1,114 private landowners, 22 formal tenants, and 11 businesses with land or assets located within pylon footprints or the permanent easement corridor for the Subcomponent 1.2, which involves the construction of a new 235 km single-circuit 500 kV OHL extending from the Azerbaijan TPP substation to the Navahi substation. In addition, informal users of state and municipal land have been identified and are recognized as eligible for compensation in accordance with ESS5, regardless of their legal tenure status.

For the AZURE Project, the following stakeholders have been identified and analyzed per project component. These stakeholders include affected parties (as defined in section 6.1), other interested parties (as defined in section 6.2) and disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals or groups (as defined in section 6.3).

6.1. Affected parties

Affected parties include local communities, community members and other parties that may be subject to direct impacts from the Project.

Policy-level reform will involve broader stakeholders at all levels to ensure the key processes are inclusive and guided by good governance principles, including transparency, disclosure and stakeholder engagement and participation. Site-specific investments, such as civil works will need to be implemented with participation of host communities and understanding of impacts and mitigation measures will need to seek the views of project affected people, including vulnerable groups.

Broadly defined, affected parties may include the following:

Table 1: Project-Affected Parties (PAPs) for the entire Project

Stakeholder Major Group	Project Site Stakeholder
Property owners and users along the routes OHLs	Private land owners
	Owners of public and private lands whose land or properties may be impacted by construction works (village, rayon, or national levels), formal tenants, informal tenants, affected businesses.
	Organizations owning lands (religious, socio-civic and other groups)
People residing in the project areas	In the framework of the current project, a second key category of PAPs will be people living along the transmission line route, the access tracks and in the vicinity of the proposed substations. These PAPs are likely to be affected by disturbances caused by the Project's heavy vehicles traffic, construction impacts, etc., but may also benefit from project-related employment opportunities.
Municipality and village representatives	A third category of important PAPs will be village representative offices. İt is represented by representative of head of executive power office of the region.
Businesses located in the project area who may be positively or negatively affected by the project	Restaurants and public catering
	Shops
	Car wash
	Private Products
	Small private hotels for tourists
	(Farmers') Markets (both formal and informal traders)
	Other services
Businesses located in the target districts who may be positively or negatively affected by the project	Residents and community members
	(Farmers') Markets (both formal and informal traders)
	Restaurants
	Other services
Environmental authorities and protected area administrations	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources; administrations of Turianchay State Reserve and Shirvan National Park
Natural resource users	Livestock herders, beekeepers, seasonal pasture users, local users of natural resources
Vulnerable groups dependent on ecosystem services	Households relying on agriculture, grazing, collection of natural products and other ecosystem-based livelihoods
Academic and civil society organizations	Ornithological Association, biodiversity experts, local environmental NGOs

6.2. Other interested parties

Other Interested Parties (OIPs) are those who may have an interest in the project and would have different concerns and priorities about project impacts, mitigation mechanisms and benefits, and who may require different, or separate, forms of engagement (ESS10 pars. 5&11). Generally, these are people, social groups and organizations who may have a possibility to influence and make decisions on implementation of the project and/or may have an interest in the Project. This group includes governmental entities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and private businesses, who may benefit from the project. It is envisaged that all three components of AZURE share the same Other Interested Parties (OIPs) as shown below:

Table 2: Other Interested Parties for AZURE

Stakeholder Major Group	Project Stakeholder
Ministries and government agencies	Ministry of Energy
	Azerbaijan Railways
	Ministry of Culture
	State Tourism Agency
	Ministry of Finance
	Ministry of Economy
	Ministry of Emergency Situations
	Ministry of Agriculture
	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
	Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population
	State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs
	Rayon Local Executive Powers
Civil society organizations	Local NGOs, ; Foundations; Social Enterprises;, Environmental Public Council of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, EkoSfera" Social Ecological Center Public Union, "Environmental Protection First" Coalition
Other project developers International NGOs, and implementation agencies	Other project developers, International NGOs, and implementation agencies (e.g., United Nations Development Program (UNDP), GIZ, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) etc.)

6.3. Disadvantaged / vulnerable individuals or groups

Disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals and groups are those who may not have the voice and agency to express their concerns or understand the impacts of project, and can thus be excluded from stakeholder engagement or project benefits.

Vulnerable groups under this project may include (i) women: consider employment opportunities for female headed families; design online and in-person surveys and other

engagement activities so that women in unpaid care work can participate; consider provisions for childcare, transport, and safety for any in-person community engagement activities; promote gender-segregated consultations and other approaches allowing for the free and enabling participation of women and girls, including groups of women and girls who are particularly vulnerable to exclusion and risks potentially associated with the project; consult with women's organizations, including organizations advocating for survivors' rights (ii) Elderly and people with existing medical conditions: develop information on specific needs and explain why they are at more risk & what measures to take to care for them; tailor messages and make them actionable for particular living conditions (including assisted living facilities), and health status; target family member; (iii) Persons with disabilities: identify people with disability, assess their limitations in attending the community consultations, and ensure their meaningful participation; identify the persons with mobility or other limitations who are unable to attend the community consultations, and make direct visits to their houses to ensure their voices are heard; iv) Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): assess the specific needs of IDPs in attending the community consultations, ensure that IDPs kept informed on project activities and have opportunities to attend community consultations and equally benefit from project benefits.

Vulnerable groups within the communities affected by the Project may be added, further confirmed, and consulted through dedicated means, as appropriate. Approaches and/or representative organizations who can be engaged as partners to engage these groups will also be identified during early project implementation. The project will incorporate differentiated measures to ensure that these groups receive project related information, are consulted with, and have the means to participate and express their views and concerns on the project. Description of the methods of engagement that will be undertaken by the project is provided in the following sections.

As part of the preparation of the RAP, a structured vulnerability screening was conducted. The assessment identified 115 vulnerable individuals across 107 households, within the Project area, with the highest concentrations in Aghsu and Aghdash regions. These were classified into four categories including 18 in Group I, 53 in Group II, 5 in Group III, and 39 in the "Other" category. Group I includes individuals with severe disabilities requiring continuous assistance (81–100% impairment). Group II covers persons with significant permanent impairments limiting mobility or working capacity (61–80% impairment). Group III includes individuals with moderate impairments affecting personal care or work capacity (31–60% impairment). Persons not falling within these categories but identified as vulnerable, including families of martyrs and veterans, were classified under the "Other" category.

In line with the RAP provisions, vulnerable households subject to permanent land acquisition at pylon locations will receive additional compensation on standard land compensation entitlements, equivalent to one month's minimum wage per household.

The table below presents the results of the vulnerability screening conducted by AzerEnerji, broken down by regions and households. Vulnerability was identified in a total of 107 households, of which 51 belong to Group 2.

Table 3 Distribution of Vulnerable Groups by Households

No	Region	Village	Number of Households				
			Group I (81–100% impairment)	Group II (61–80% impairment)	Group III (31–60% impairment)	Other	Total
1	Aghdaş	Arabocağı	1	3	0	2	6
2	Aghdash	Qoşaqovaq	1	6	0	1	8
3	Aghdash	Şekili	0	1	0	1	2
4	Aghdash	Yuxarı Ağcayazı	1	0	0	6	7
5	Aghdash	Hüşün	1	2	3	0	6
6	Aghsu	Qaraqoyunlu	0	1	0	0	1
7	Aghsu	Qaraqaşlı	0	1	0	0	1
8	Aghsu	Ülgüc	1	0	0	1	2
9	Aghsu	Ağarx	1	1	0	2	4
10	Aghsu	Qaramammadli	0	0	0	1	1
11	Aghsu	Daşdemirbeyli	0	1	0	1	2
12	Aghsu	Gegeli	0	1	0	1	2
13	Aghsu	Bico	0	11	1	6	18
14	Aghsu	Keşdimaz	0	2	0	1	3
15	Aghsu	Qeşed	1	1	0	1	3
16	Aghsu	Lengebiz	1	0	0	0	1
17	Goychay	Mirzahüseynli	0	0	1	0	1
18	Goychay	Qarabaqqal	0	0	0	6	6
19	Goychay	Bığır	3	2	0	0	5
20	Goychay	Qarayazı	0	3	0	0	3
21	Hajigabul	Navahi	1	0	0	2	3
22	Shamakhi	Birinci Çaylı	0	1	0	0	1
23	Shamakhi	Çöl-Göyler	1	5	0	1	7
24	Shamakhi	Bağırlı	0	5	0	1	6
25	Yevlakh	Ereş	0	1	0	1	2
26	Yevlakh	Havarlı	1	0	0	0	1
27	Yevlakh	Tanrıqulular	0	0	0	1	1
28	Yevlakh	Salahlı	1	1	0	0	2
29	Yevlakh	Arabbesra	0	1	0	0	1
30	Yevlakh	Xanabad	0	1	0	0	1
Total			15	51	5	36	107

The table below shows the number of individuals identified as vulnerable groups in the screening conducted by AzerEnerji, broken down by regions and villages. Out of a total of 115 vulnerable individuals, 53 belong to Group 2. The village with the highest number of vulnerable individuals is Gegeli, located in the Aghsu rayon.

Table 4 Distribution of Vulnerable Groups by Number of Persons

No	Region	Village	Number of Persons				
			Group I (81–100% impairment)	Group II (61–80% impairment)	Group III (31–60% impairment)	Other	Total
1	Aghdaş	Arabocağı	1	4	0	2	7
2	Aghdash	Qoşaqovaq	1	6	0	2	9
3	Aghdash	Şekili	0	1	0	1	2
4	Aghdash	Yuxarı Ağcayazı	1	0	0	8	9
5	Aghdash	Hüşün	4	2	3	0	9
6	Aghsu	Qaraqoyunlu	0	1	0	0	1
7	Aghsu	Qaraqaşlı	0	1	0	0	1
8	Aghsu	Ülgüc	1	0	0	1	2
9	Aghsu	Ağarx	1	1	0	2	4
10	Aghsu	Qaramammadli	0	0	0	1	1
11	Aghsu	Daşdemirbeyli	0	1	0	1	2
12	Aghsu	Gegeli	0	2	0	1	2
13	Aghsu	Bico	0	11	1	6	18
14	Aghsu	Keşdimaz	0	2	0	1	3
15	Aghsu	Qeşed	1	1	0	1	3
16	Aghsu	Lengebiz	1	0	0	0	1
17	Goychay	Mirzahüseynli	0	0	1	0	1
18	Goychay	Qarabaqqal	0	0	0	6	6
19	Goychay	Bığır	3	2	0	0	5
20	Goychay	Qarayazı	0	3	0	0	3
21	Hajigabul	Navahi	1	0	0	2	3
22	Shamakhi	Birinci Çaylı	0	1	0	0	1
23	Shamakhi	Çöl-Göyler	1	5	0	1	7
24	Shamakhi	Bağırlı	0	5	0	1	6
25	Yevlakh	Ereş	0	1	0	1	2
26	Yevlakh	Havarlı	1	0	0	0	1
27	Yevlakh	Tanrıqulular	0	0	0	1	1
28	Yevlakh	Salahlı	1	1	0	0	2
29	Yevlakh	Arabbesra	0	1	0	0	1
30	Yevlakh	Xanabad	0	1	0	0	1
Total			18	53	5	39	115

Within the scope of the household surveys, interviews were conducted with 15 individuals from the vulnerable group of 115 identified in the vulnerability screening. Of the vulnerable groups interviewed, 93% are part of an extended family and 7% are part of a nuclear family. 93% are married, and 7% are widowed. The average age of the head of household is 58. All are engaged in farming, and 47% are also retired. 93% have mandatory health insurance, and 7% have State Social Protection insurance. The total number of people living permanently in the households is 91, with 53% being male and 47% female. The average household size is 3.0. Farming is the primary source of income for all households; in addition, 47% receive pension income, and 27% engage in livestock farming.

7. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

7.1. General Principles of Engagement

Stakeholders should be provided with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, or intimidation.

The following general principles will govern stakeholder engagement activities:

7.1.1. Capacity building of people in project-affected communities

In order to facilitate meaningful participation of stakeholders, activities aimed at education and capacity building will be conducted. Courses on employment and vocational skills will be conducted for persons in project- affected communities for possible employment in Azerenerji-owned facilities. Similar training sessions have already been conducted in other regions of Azerbaijan.

7.1.2. Provision for the participation of vulnerable groups

Vulnerable groups may be defined as people that by virtue of gender, ethnicity, age, physical or mental disability, economic disadvantage or social status may experience different or unique effects from the Project than others. International best practice encourages that individuals or groups particularly vulnerable to adverse project impacts and risks be supported to participate in the consultation process. The following measures will be implemented to enhance the ability of vulnerable stakeholder groups to participate meaningfully in the ESIA process and during project implementation:

- During the continued process of stakeholder identification, Azerenerjı will identify disadvantaged or vulnerable persons or groups; and
- Staff will identify consultation approaches and activities that will support effective engagement of vulnerable persons.

7.2. Engagement methods

The project will be implemented by the Azerenerji JSC. The already established Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be responsible for the day-to-day project management, including environmental and social management and addressing potential environmental and social risks. The PIU will be responsible for engaging with the stakeholders. Once the project is operating, the safeguard specialists will also ensure the regular monitoring of the project results framework and adherence with WB’s ESS, including management of the SEP.

In conformance to ESS10 B - Engagement during project implementation and external reporting (pars. 23-27), stakeholder engagement will be in place throughout the entire project implementation through a number of possible methods discussed herein,

- **Community meetings**

Rayon, District/city authorities (Executive Powers) of project encroached regions shall facilitate with Azerenerji-PIU meetings with PAPs, and OIP. These meetings will be unrestricted but may prioritize on those vulnerable groups and in which the general public can raise concerns and provide comments.

The Contractor, MITAS Energy will maintain continuous engagement with PAPs, local communities, landowners, tenants, businesses, and relevant local authorities throughout all phases of Project implementation. A dedicated Social Specialist will be retained by the Contractor to ensure timely disclosure of Project information, consultation on construction schedules and potential impacts, and effective communication regarding land access, compensation, livelihood restoration, and community health and safety measures. Prior to site entry, affected stakeholders will be informed of planned activities, access requirements, applicable compensation procedures, and the Project Grievance Mechanism. The Contractor will continue regular consultations during construction to address concerns, minimize disruptions, and ensure prompt resolution of grievances in accordance with ESS5 and ESS10 requirements and applicable national legislation.

- **Mass/social media communication**

During the project implementation of AZURE, a designated specialist (from Azerenerji-PIU staff) will be responsible in maintaining close communication with stakeholders, including PAPs, community leaders. The specialist, as the main Focal Point Person (FPP), will also be tasked for posting relevant information on the dedicated social media channels (Facebook, etc.) and on information boards throughout the project's lifecycle. In addition, if necessary, the project may arrange for production of video materials (for video-sharing platform, e.g., YouTube) or documentary broadcast on TV/cable TV and which will entail description of the project, advance announcement of the forthcoming public events or commencement of specific Project activities.

- **Information Desks**

During the initiation of the AZURE project, an "Information Desks" in each Regional Energy Grid were organizedto provide local residents with information on stakeholder engagement activities, project interventions, contact details of the Focal Point Person (PIU's Stakeholder Engagement Specialist (SES)). The FPP will set up these information desks in local municipalities where they can meet and share information about the project with PAPs and other stakeholders. AZURE brochures and fliers on various project related social and environmental issues will be made available at these information desks.

- **Proposed Strategy / Differentiated Measures to include the views of and encourage participation by vulnerable groups**

Considering the extra burden and difficulty of Disadvantage and Vulnerable Groups, ESS10 par. 16 specifies that the "SEP will include differentiated measures to allow the effective participation of those identified as disadvantaged or vulnerable Dedicated approaches and an increased level of resources may be needed for communication with such differently affected groups so that they can obtain the information they need regarding the issues that will potentially affect them."

To this end, the project has taken special measures (by visiting the houses of identified vulnerable people with assistance of local head of municipalities) to ensure that disadvantaged and vulnerable groups have equal opportunity to access information, provide feedback, or submit grievances. In these visits they were informed about the impacts of the project and special provisions (like extra financial aid 1 time minimum wage allowance) included in the RAP. To this end, the PIU's Stakeholder Engagement Specialist (SES) will explore further \ interactions with the Disadvantage and Vulnerable Groups. Series of FGD's were and will be undertaken to ensure that the needs of these groups are properly addressed.

Azerenerji addressed to the regional authorities to obtain the list of known vulnerable peoples across the Project alignment. The concerned authorities provided such lists to the PIU of Azerenerji. PIU's SES contacted the local municipalities based on the provided lists to reach them out directly to ensure their voices are heard. Targeted measures to ensure participation in stakeholder engagement will be used, such as organizing consultations at different times convenient for different groups, providing transportation arrangements if needed and reaching out to spatially isolated communities such as IDP communities.

The project has started consultations during RAP preparation, will continue to consult with the identified PAPs, vulnerable groups and other relevant stakeholders in line with the lenders' requirements throughout RAP disclosure, the land acquisition, RAP implementation, construction and operation phase.

In line with the RAP, where vulnerable persons are subject to permanent land acquisition at pylon locations, they will receive an additional one-month minimum wage compensation to uplift on top of the standard land compensation entitlement. This measure is designed to support the restoration of livelihoods and maintenance of living standards among those least able to absorb the impacts of displacement or asset loss, consistent with ESS5's requirements for differentiated support to vulnerable groups.

Gender-sensitive follow-up consultations will be conducted during Project implementation to address identified gaps in baseline data and ensure continued engagement with women and other potentially underrepresented stakeholder groups.

- **Information Disclosure**

The current Azerenerji website (http://www.azerenerji.gov.az/az) is being used to disclose project documents, including those on social performance in Azerbaijani and English. All future project-related social and environmental monitoring reports listed in the above sections will be disclosed on the same Azerenerji webpage, including Project updates, an easy-to-understand guide to the terminology used in the social and environmental reports or documents, and all relevant information as also found in printed materials. The details about the Project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) were disclosed during RAP disclosure meetings in affected municipalities and an online grievance submission form

was also arranged on the Azerenerji's website[2]. Contact details of the PIU's SES and contact office particulars shall be made available on the website. The project website will be updated for PAPs and other stakeholders.

Within the scope of the Project, PAPs are recognized as key stakeholders, and stakeholder engagement activities will be implemented based on the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, and equitable participation. Azerenerji, the Supervision Engineer, and the Contractor will implement an inclusive engagement program to ensure meaningful participation of affected communities, households, and local authorities throughout the project implementation. The Project SEP, originally disclosed in January 2025, serves as the overarching framework for stakeholder engagement and is being updated to reflect the outcomes of revised ESIA, RAP-related activities, including information disclosure, consultations, feedback collection, and grievance management during land acquisition and resettlement processes. Consultation outcomes and stakeholder feedback will be systematically documented, monitored, and incorporated into Project decision-making and progress reporting, with particular focus on compensation options, micro-routing opportunities, crop protection during harvesting periods, valuation methodologies, and identification of vulnerable groups. This approach aims to support transparent communication, minimize social risks, and ensure fair and sustainable implementation of resettlement activities.

Overall, the consultations within RAP indicated that while general acceptance of the Project exists, there are clear expectations regarding compensation, timing of construction, and avoidance of impacts on high-value agricultural activities, particularly for perennial crops and orchard-based livelihoods. Ongoing stakeholder engagement during implementation will continue to address community expectations.

7.2.1. Summary of stakeholder engagement during project preparation – ESIA Phase

During the ESIA phase, Azerenerjı conducted stakeholder engagement activities from 30 September to 2 October 2024 in 34 cluster communities affected by the project, covering 7 regions of Hajigabul, Agsu, Agdash, Shamakhi, Goychay, Agdash, Ismayilli and 1 Mingachevir town. These meetings were attended by 373 stakeholders (95 women, 278 men).

The Objectives and Purposes of the Public Consultations:

- Providing information on the Project scope (general details, objectives, components, etc.);
- Presenting AZURE Project Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Documents (***Scoping Report, Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Labour Management Procedures***

[2] https://www.azerenerji.gov.az/contact

(LMP)) that describe potential socio-environmental impacts of the Project activities and corresponding mitigations;
- Responding questions related to the above-mentioned documentations; and
- Receiving comments and feedback to be incorporated into the final versions of environmental and social framework (ESF) documents.

Participants of Public Consultations included:
- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- A representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting from Public Consultations are provided in Annex G**.**

The consultant (Iglim) preparing the ESIA for the AZURE project conducted focus group consultations with members of the AoI community, including women and representatives of other vulnerable community sub-groups, from 30 September to 2 October 2024.During these meetings, stakeholders were provided with information on the AZURE project, its positive impacts, as well as potential environmental and social risks and mitigation measures that are currently being studied as part of the ESIA. People's perceptions of the project, its benefits and risks were collected through specific pre-prepared focus group consultation questionnaires.

The consultations helped identify specific concerns of the Project affected communities via engaging them in proactive discussions of the Project plans and ESIA process. Summary of the conducted consultations is provided in the Appendix H.

The information on Public Consultations and Focus Group discussions are summarized below:

- Public Consultations and Focus Groups discussions were held in Hajigabul region, Navahi settlement with participation of 24 (8 women, 16 men) stakeholders from Navahi, Ranjbar, Gizilburun, Pirsaat and Atbulag villages.
- Public Consultations and Focus Groups discussions were held in Shamakhi region, Ovchulu and Goyler Chol villages with participation of 45 (20 women, 25 men) stakeholders.
- Public Consultations and Focus Groups discussions were held in Agsu region with participation of 100 (28 women, 72 men) stakeholders from Lengebiz, Bico, Gashad, Gegeli, Dashdemirbeyli, Garaqoyunlu and Ulguc villages
- Public Consultations and Focus Groups discussions were held in Ismayilli region with participation of 38 (7 women, 31 men) stakeholders from Ismayilli region Gubakhelilli village, and Goychay region Garabaggal and Garameryem villages.
- Public Consultations and Focus Groups discussions were held in Goychay region with participation of 23 (4 women, 19 women) stakeholders from Arabjabirli 2 and Mirzahuseynli villages.
- Public Consultations and Focus Groups discussions were held in Mingachevir town with participation of 41 (13 women, 28 men) stakeholders from Mingachevir town.

- Public Consultations and Focus Groups discussions were held in Yevlakh region with participation of 76 (10 women, 66 men) stakeholders from Tanrıqulular, Huruushaghı, Boshchali, Havarlı, Hacıselli, Salahlı, Arash, Akhsham and Gulovsha villages.
- Public Consultations and Focus Groups discussions were held in Agdash region with participation of 26 (5 women, 21 men) stakeholders from Hushun, Yukhari Agcayazi, Goshagovag and Arabocagi communities.

Summary of field activities conducted during RAP preparation phase:

The socioeconomic baseline survey was conducted with 596 household heads across the eight regions, covering a population of 2,907 individuals. The survey confirmed that the Project area is predominantly rural and agricultural, with farming and animal husbandry constituting the primary livelihoods.

Field-based asset inventory and valuation studies were carried out to document affected assets and support the determination of compensation measures. To ensure the reliability and accuracy of the data collected, verification visits and follow-up interviews were conducted in selected settlements. These activities enabled cross-checking of survey results and provided additional qualitative insights to support the overall impact assessment and RAP preparation.

Work carried out as part of the fieldwork;

1. Asset census September 2025- An on-site asset inventory for pylon locations and lands affected by easements was conducted by an independent valuation firm engaged by Azerenerji. Fieldwork was carried out in two phases between 03.09.2025–29.09.2025 and 03.10.2025–29.10.2025, covering all affected locations along the project corridor.
2. Household surveys conducted for households affected by pylons locations (October 2025) and easement (January 2026)
3. Surveys conducted with affected businesses (November 2025)
4. Verification field (February 2026)

Three field studies were conducted within the scope of the RAP.

- The survey on pylon locations was conducted by Azerenerji's survey team between October 7, 2025, and October 20, 2025. Within the scope of the study, a total of 45 settlements in 8 regions were visited, and interviews were conducted with 238 people.
- The survey for easement areas was conducted by Azerenerji's survey team between January 12, 2026, and January 23, 2026. Within this scope, 45 settlements in 6 regions were visited, and a total of 358 people were interviewed.
- The verification fieldwork was carried out by SRM Consulting between February 15-20, 2026. As a result of the study, 27 settlements in 7 regions were visited; interviews were conducted with 29 municipal representatives, a total of 125 people whose land was affected (5 of whom were women), 3 formal tenants, 1 informal tenant, and 1 affected business.

During fieldwork, participants were asked about the topics they wanted to learn more about regarding the project. The topic that participants most wanted information about

was the start and finish dates of construction, accounting for 23% of total requests. This was followed by the route of the line (17%) and impacts on the land (17%). Expropriation (16%) and impacts on livelihoods (16%) are also important issues for participants. On the other hand, employment (4%), impacts on livestock (6%), and impacts on trees (2%) are considered less important by participants.

Overall, the fieldwork covered 45 settlements across 8 regions, with a combined total of 596 households surveyed. Female participation across both survey phases was low and accounted for approximately 14% of respondents. The survey results provide a comprehensive socio-economic baseline and support the identification of potential project impacts, particularly in relation to land use, livelihoods, and vulnerability.

7.2.2 Summary of stakeholder engagement during Public Consultations on RAP disclosure

Following the clearance by the World Bank, the draft RAP for 235 km 500 kv OHL has been disclosed in Azerbaijani and English on Azerenerji website, and in English on WB website in April 2026.

Following the RAP disclosure, Azerenerji conducted consultation meetings with PAPs, local authorities, NGOs, and other stakeholders to disclose RAP provisions, collect feedback, and address concerns. Consultation outcomes has been documented and will be incorporated into the RAP, which will be revised and resubmitted to the World Bank as necessary. Upon completion of the consultation and revision process, the final RAP will be disclosed in Azerbaijani at the local level and on Azerenerji's website, and in English on the World Bank's website.

Azerenerji conducted public consultations for RAP disclosure between 27 April and 02 May 2026 in Hajigabul, Agsu, Aghdash, Shamakhi, Goychay, Ismayilli regions, and Mingachevir town. The consultations were attended by a total of 192 stakeholders, including 25 women and 167 men.

During the Consultations, the cut-off date was formally re-announced, and a brochure providing a brief summary of the project, it's technical details, GRM and the details of the appointed contact person were distributed to all participants.

Social Risks Management Expert of the Supervision Engineer, attended all the public consultations.

The Objectives and Purposes of the Public Consultations:

- Providing information on the scale of the anticipated permanent and temporary social impacts of the project;
- Presenting AZURE Project Resettlement Action Plan that describe potential social impacts of the Project activities as well as corresponding mitigations and compensations;
- Announcement and explanation of the cut-off date for the project;

- Introduction of the RAP related Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM);
- Responding questions related to the RAP and anticipated social impacts of the project; and
- Receiving comments and feedback to be incorporated into the final version of the Resettlement Action Plan.

Participants of Public Consultations included:

- Executive Power local representatives;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents;
- People affected by land acquisition, owners and users of affected lands and;
- Representatives of the service organizations.

The information on Public Consultations on RAP disclosure is summarized below:

- Public Consultations were held in Hajigabul region with participation of 21 (4 women, 17 men) stakeholders from Ranjbar and Navahi villages.
- Public Consultations were held in Shamakhi region, Ovchulu village with participation of 20 (1 women, 19 men) stakeholders from Ovchulu village.
- Public Consultations were held in Agsu region with participation of 18 (4 women, 14 men) stakeholders from Gegeli, Namirli, Garaqashlı, Agharx, Ulguc, Dashdemirli, Arabushaghı and Garamammadli villages.
- Public Consultations were held in Goychay region with participation of 34 (3 women, 31 men) stakeholders from Hacalıkənd, Garabaqqal, Alxasafa, Bıghır, Arabcabirli and Inche villages.
- Public Consultations were held in Mingachevir town with participation of 39 (9 women, 30 men) stakeholders from Mingachevir town.
- Public Consultations were held in Yevlakh region with participation of 31 (4 women, 27 men) stakeholders from Arash, Salahlı, Havarlı, Khaldan, Arabbasra and Tanrıqulular villages.
- Public Consultations were held in Agdash region with participation of 29 male stakeholders from Arabojaghı, Dahnaxalil, Yuxarı Agcayazı, Arab, Shakili, Hushun and Goshaqovaq communities.

Minutes of the Public Consultations are provided in Annex I**.**

Community Consultations:

As part of the Project implementation phase, and in line with environmental and social requirements, a series of community consultations were conducted between 27 April and 01 May 2026 across cluster communities in of Hajigabul, Shamakhi, Aghsu, Ismayilli, Goychay, Aghdash, and Yevlakh districts, as well as in Mingachevir city, Republic of Azerbaijan. The community consultations were attended by a total of 174 stakeholders, including 36 women and 138 men.

Objectives of the Consultations

The consultations were undertaken with the following objectives:

- To provide information on the Project scope, including its objectives, and components;
- To introduce the Contractor and sub-contractors, and planned construction activities;
- To inform stakeholders of potential environmental and social impacts and the corresponding mitigation measures;
- To highlight key measures addressing Community Health and Safety issues;
- To disclose the cut-off date, and grievance redress mechanism (GRM) structure;
- To present the GRM available to both communities and workers;
- To respond to stakeholder questions and concerns.

During the consultations, representatives of Azerenerji and the Contractor informed stakeholders that the AZURE has transitioned into the construction phase, with works scheduled to commence in mid-May 2026. Participants were provided with information on the Project scope, construction activities, Contarctor responsibilities, potential environmental and social impacts, mitigation measures, community health and safety provisions, temporary land use and restoration procedures, the established cut-off date of 15 May 2026, and the grievance redress mechanisms available for compensation and community-related concerns. Representative of the Contractor the planned construction activities and work distribution among subcontractors, while outlining potential environmental and social impacts and corresponding mitigation measures. Information was also provided on community health and safety measures, temporary land use and restoration procedures, and the grievance mechanism, and contact numbers available for submission of community complaints.

Stakeholder Engagement Specialist of the Supervision Engineer, attended all the meetings.

Minutes of community consultations is provided in Appendix J.

Table 3: Stakeholder Engagement for Preparation of Project including for ESIA and resettlement planning

Target stakeholders	Topic of consultation	Method used	Responsibilities	Frequency/Timeline
Project-Affected Parties: People affected by land acquisition	Acquisition related concerns, e.g. alternatives, agricultural losses, compensations, etc. E&S risks and impacts and their mitigations plans Resettlement Policy Framework	Individual interviews/surveys Group consultations Grievance mechanism Monitoring / reporting	AzerEnerji ESIA/RAP consultant Local authorities	*One time (presentation / interviews)* *Weekly (group consultations)* *Continuous (grievances)*
People residing in project area	Project design (OHL routes and rights-of-way, construction schedule, use of access roads) E&S risks and impacts and their mitigation plans Employment opportunities	Presentations Group consultations Social surveys Training programs Grievance mechanism Monitoring / reporting	AzerEnerji (project, environmental and HR managers) ESIA consultant Local authorities	*One time (presentations, social surveys, trainings)* *Weekly (group consultations)* *Continuous (grievances)*
Disadvantaged/ Vulnerable households	Project design (OHL routes and rights-of-way, construction schedule, use of access roads) E&S risks and impacts and their mitigation plans Risks and Impacts Advocacy policies Employment opportunities	Presentations Group consultations Social surveys Training programs Grievance mechanism Monitoring / reporting	AzerEnerji (project, environmental and HR managers) ESIA consultant Local authorities	*One time (presentation, social surveys, trainings)* *Weekly (group consultations)* *Continuous (grievances)*
General public, jobseekers	Project design E&S risks and impacts and their mitigation plans Employment opportunities Trainings	Presentations Grievance mechanism	AzerEnerji Contractors	*One time (presentations)* *Continuous (grievances)*
Businesses and business organizations;	Project design E&S risks and impacts and their mitigation plans Partnership opportunities	Presentations Individual / group consultations Grievance mechanism Monitoring/reporting	AzerEnerji Contractors Local businesses Local authorities	*One time (presentation and consultations)* *Continuous (grievances)*

Target stakeholders	Topic of consultation	Method used	Responsibilities	Frequency/Timeline
Other Interested Parties (External)	Project design Impacts and their mitigation plans	Presentations Public consultations Grievance mechanism	AzerEnerji ESIA consultant	*One time (presentation)* *Continuous (grievances)*
NGOs - environmental	Project design E&S risks and impacts and their mitigation plans	Consultations during ESIA process Presentations / public consultations	AzerEnerji ESIA consultant	*One time (presentation / public consultations)* *Continuous (consultations)*
NGOs – others	Project design E&S risks and impacts and their mitigation plans	Consultations during ESIA process Presentations / public consultations	AzerEnerji ESIA consultant	*One time (presentation / public consultations)* *Continuous (consultations)*
Workers' organizations	Project design Partnership/employment opportunities Labour Management Procedures E&S risks and impacts and their mitigation plans	Presentations Consultations Grievance mechanism	AzerEnerji Contractors Businesses	*One time (presentation / consultations)* *Continuous (grievances)*
Academic institutions	Project design E&S risks and impacts and their mitigation plans	Consultations during ESIA process Presentations / public consultations	AzerEnerji ESIA consultant	*Continuous*
Rayon (including village) representatives	Project design E&S risks and impacts and their mitigation plans	Consultations during ESIA and Project design Presentations / public consultations Meetings / discussions	AzerEnerji ESIA consultant	*Continuous (consultations)* *Weekly (meetings/discussions)*
Local Government Departments	Project design E&S risks and impacts and their mitigation plans	Consultations during ESIA and Project design Presentations / public consultations Meetings / discussions	AzerEnerji ESIA consultant	*Upon request (consultations)* *One time (meetings/discussions)*
National Government Ministries	Project design Feasibility Study ESIA Report	Consultations Presentations / public consultations Meetings / discussions	AzerEnerji ESIA consultant	*Upon request (consultations)* *One time (meetings/discussions)*
Press and media	Project design ESIA Report	Press releases Presentations / public consultations	AzerEnerji ESIA consultant	*Monthly (press releases)* *One time (presentations)*

7.2.2. Constructions and operation

The objective of stakeholder engagement during the construction and operation phases are to maintain links with all stakeholders to ensure that impact mitigation is being implemented as planned. The frequency of stakeholder engagement will diminish as the Project transitions from construction to operations, but key methods such as the maintenance of the grievance mechanism will be used to identify and solve any impacts or problems that were not foreseen by the ESIA and associated management planning process.

The construction and operation phases are the longest stage of the Project and will continue for the life of the facility. The SEP will be updated periodically and upon major project changes to reflect engagement activities that may be required during the life of the Project.

Key activities during the construction and operations stage are summarized in the table below:

Table 4: Stakeholder Engagement prior to and during Construction and Operation

Target stakeholders	Topic of consultation	Method used	Responsibilities	Frequency/Timeline
Project-Affected Parties: People affected by land acquisition	Resettlement plans Payment of compensations Stakeholder Engagement Plan	Individual interviews/surveys Group consultations Grievance mechanism Monitoring / reporting	AzerEnerji Local authorities	*Weekly (interviews / group consultations)* *Continuous (grievances)*
People residing in project area	Construction schedule Project activities Maintenance works Impact management Community and individual Employment opportunities	Individual / group consultations Trainings Grievance mechanism Monitoring / reporting	AzerEnerji (project, environmental and HR managers) Local authorities Contractors	*Monthly during construction phase (trainings / consultations)* *Continuous (grievances)*
Disadvantaged/ Vulnerable households	Construction schedule Project activities Advocacy policies Impact management Healthcare concerns Employment opportunities	Individual / group consultations Trainings Grievance mechanism Monitoring / reporting	AzerEnerji (project, environmental and HR managers) Local authorities Contractors	*Monthly during construction phase (trainings / consultations)* *Continuous (grievances)*
General public, jobseekers	Project activities Impact management	Grievance mechanism Job negotiations	AzerEnerji Contractors	*Continuous (grievance)* *Upon request (job negotiations)*
Businesses and business organizations;	Project activities Impact management Partnership building Inclusive products/services Anti-gouging consultations	Consultations Negotiations Grievance mechanism Monitoring/reporting	AzerEnerji Contractors Local businesses Local authorities	*Onetime (consultations/ negotiations)* *Continuous (monitoring / grievances)*
Other Interested Parties (External)	Project activities Impact management Partnership opportunities	Consultations Grievance mechanism	AzerEnerji Contractors	*Upon request (consultations)* *Continuous (grievance)*
NGOs - environmental	Impact management	Consultations Grievance mechanism	AzerEnerji Contractors	*Upon request (consultations)* *Continuous (grievance)*
NGOs – others	Project activities Impact management	Consultations Grievance mechanism	AzerEnerji Contractors	*Upon request (consultations)*

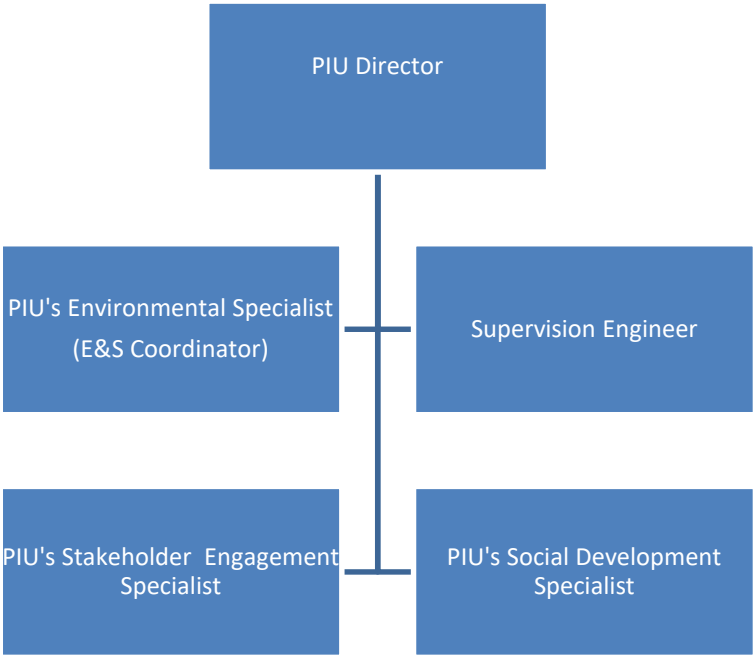
Target stakeholders	Topic of consultation	Method used	Responsibilities	Frequency/Timeline
				Continuous (grievance)
Workers' organizations	Project activities Impact management	Consultations Grievance mechanism	AzerEnerji Contractors Businesses	*Upon request (consultations)* *Continuous (grievance)*
Academic institutions	Impact management	Consultations	AzerEnerji	*Upon request (consultations)*
Rayon (including village) representatives	Project activities Impact management	Consultations Grievance mechanism	AzerEnerji Contractors	*Weekly during construction phase (consultations)* *Continuous (grievance)*
Local Government Departments	Project activities Impact management	Consultations Grievance mechanism Monitoring / Reporting	AzerEnerji Contractors	*Weekly during construction phase (consultations)* *Monthly (reporting)* *Continuous (grievance)*
National Government Ministries	Impact management	Monitoring / Reporting	AzerEnerji	*Onetime (reporting)*
Press and media	Project activities Impact management	Press releases Grievance mechanism	AzerEnerji	*Monthly during construction phase* *Continuous (grievance)*

7.2.3. Decommissioning and closure

In the context of this project, it is important to clarify that there will be no decommissioning or closure of the existing overhead lines (OHL) and substation. These critical infrastructure components will continue to operate as part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring a stable and reliable energy supply. The project will focus on enhancements and upgrades to improve efficiency and performance, without disrupting the current operation of OHL and substation. This ensures that our energy infrastructure remains robust and continues to meet the demands of all stakeholders.

8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For the implementation of the SEP, a AZURE-SEP Team will be comprised of Azerenerji-PIU SES having overall responsibility for stakeholder engagement and actively supported by OE staff. However, to implement the various activities envisaged in the SEP, the SES will need to closely coordinate with other key stakeholders, including internal deparments with Azerenji as well as other national and local government departments/agencies in Neftchala, Bilasuvar, Salyan, Hajigabul, Aghsu, Goychay, Agdash, Yevlakh, Gobustan, Absheron, Ismayilli, Shamakhi and Garadagh regions and Mingachevir town.



The roles and responsibilities of these actors/stakeholders are summarized in the Table below.

Table 5: Roles and Responsibilities for Stakeholder Engagement

Role	**Responsibilities for Stakeholder Engagement**
PIU Director	Overall responsibility for SEP implementation
E&S Co-ordinator Environment Specialist	• Coordination/supervision of contractors on ESMP and SEP activities
Stakeholder Engagement Specialist	• Planning and implementation of the SEP; • Leading stakeholder engagement activities; • Communicate and coordinate with Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Groups in the Project Area • Ensure proper recording and tracking of logged grievances
Social Risk Specialist	• Monitoring of and reporting on social performance to GoA and the World Bank
ESIA Consultant	• Facilitate the timely and transparent disclosure of information, including ESIA findings, to all stakeholders. • Analyze stakeholders to understand their interests, concerns, influence, and the potential impact of the project on them. • Arrange and facilitate public consultations, ensuring broad participation from all relevant stakeholders.

Role	Responsibilities for Stakeholder Engagement
	• Actively collect feedback, concerns, and suggestions from stakeholders during consultations.
RAP Consultant	• Develop clear, culturally appropriate, and accessible materials to inform stakeholders about the resettlement process, their rights, entitlements, and the timeline. • Provide transparent, consistent, and timely disclosure of information to all stakeholders, particularly PAPs, regarding the RAP process. • Evaluate the social, economic, and cultural impacts of resettlement on affected persons and communities, incorporating stakeholder feedback into the assessment.
Supervision Engineer	• Serve as the primary technical liaison between the project owner and various stakeholders, including government agencies, contractors, local communities, and other relevant parties. • Assist in addressing and resolving technical grievances raised by stakeholders, ensuring that solutions are technically sound and acceptable to all parties. • Participate in mediation efforts to resolve conflicts between the project owner and stakeholders related to technical aspects of the project. • Maintain detailed records of all stakeholder engagement activities, including technical presentations, feedback, and how this feedback was addressed. • Transmit and resolve complaints caused by the project interventions in close collaboration with and as directed by PIU and by participating in the local Grievance Resolution Committee;
Contractor	• Appoint a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) or designated representative responsible for stakeholder engagement activities during construction. • Implement stakeholder engagement activities assigned under the SEP, C-ESMP, and other project-specific management plans. • Maintain regular communication with local communities, landowners, road users, and other affected stakeholders regarding planned construction activities, schedules, temporary disruptions, and mitigation measures. • Provide advance notification to affected communities regarding construction works, road closures, traffic diversions, utility interruptions, and other activities that may affect local residents or businesses. • Participate in community meetings, consultations, disclosure events, and grievance resolution activities organized by the PIU and Supervision Engineer. • Receive, record, and promptly transmit community complaints and grievances to the PIU in accordance with the Project Grievance Mechanism. • Maintain a stakeholder engagement log and grievance register at site level and provide regular reports to the Supervision Engineer and PIU. • Ensure that workers and subcontractors comply with the Code of Conduct and interact respectfully with local communities. • Support engagement with disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and ensure their concerns are communicated to the PIU. • Cooperate with local authorities and community representatives to minimize construction-related impacts and resolve stakeholder concerns in a timely manner. • Display project information boards and grievance mechanism contact details at construction sites, camps, and other relevant locations. • Provide monthly reports on stakeholder engagement activities, consultations conducted, grievances received, and corrective actions implemented.
Local government	• Act as a coordinator between the project proponents, local communities, and other stakeholders, ensuring effective communication and collaboration. • Organize and facilitate public consultations, meetings, and forums where stakeholders can express their views, ask questions, and receive information about the project. • Collaborate with regional or national government bodies to ensure that local concerns are addressed in broader decision-making processes.

Azerenerji Management has to ensure sufficient and qualified resources are allocated on an ongoing basis to achieve effective implementation of actions, measures and monitoring activities under Azerenerji's responsibility. Azerenerji Management is responsible for:

- final approval of this Plan;
- taking appropriate actions to plan engagement activities, to address major Non-Conformities, based on audit reports and to respond to requirements that might arise from the E&S team.

The stakeholder engagement activities will be documented through:

- Stakeholder Register
- Meeting Minutes and Reports
- Engagement Logs
- Grievance Management System
- Feedback Forms and Surveys
- Communication Materials
- Public Comment Logs
- Photographic and Video Records
- Azerenerji Website and Online Platforms

Azerenerji PR and Press Office will be also taking part in stakeholder engagement process when needed to disseminate project related information and materials. They maybe also contacted by external stakeholders to request information about the Project. PIU and Public Relations (PR) and Press Office of Azerenerji will work in close coordination during the implementation of the Project.

Contact details to liaise with Azerenerji will be defined as below:

Address: Azerenerji JSC, A.Alizade street 10, Baku, AZ1005, Azerbaijan
Phone Number: 051 9448385
Email Address: Shahriyar.mammadov@azerenerji.gov.az
Corporate website: https://www.azerenerji.gov.az/

8.1. Budget for SEP Implementation

The stakeholder engagement activities discussed above cover a variety of environmental and social issues as well as engagement on project. The Azerenerji-PIU will be responsible for designing/planning and implementation of stakeholder engagement activities for the AZURE Project, as well as other relevant communications, outreach and information disclosure activities. In order to ensure successful AZURE SEP implementation, the E&S staff of the PIU and the OE Consultant will assist the PIU. All costs related with SEP implementation will be covered by Azerenerji when such necessity occurs. In Azerenerji, there is a department of supply and logistics in charge of logistic support of Azerenerji backed events and programs who provides transport, stationary, accommodation, meal services. Besides, any employee who is seconded to regions receives daily allowance calculated based on the acting normative-legal act regulating domestic business trips.

Table 6. Budget for Stakeholder Engagement

Budget categories	Quantity	Unit costs (AZN)	Months	Total costs (AZN)	Remarks
1. Estimated Staff salaries* and related expenses					
1a. *Stakeholder Engagement Specialist*	1	2500	60	150,000	
1b. *Travel costs for staff*		1000	60	60,000	
1c*. Estimated salaries for Community Liaison Officers*	3	1500	36	162,000	
2. Consultations/ Participatory Planning, Decision-Making Meetings					
2a. *Public meetings*	-	LS	Entire project period	30,000	Lump Sum
2b. *Organization of focus groups*	-	LS	Entire project period	30,000	Lump Sum
3. Communication campaigns					
3a. *Posters, flyers, leaflets*	500	2	24	1,000	
4. Trainings					
4a. *Training on social/environmental issues for PIU and contractor staff*	2	5000	1	10,000	
4b. *E.g., Training on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) for PIU and contractor staff*	2	5000	1	10,000	
6. Grievance Mechanism					
6a. Trainings (social issues, outreach, GRM, etc.) for PIU, Regional Committees (13 rayons)	2	5000	1	10,000	
6b. *Suggestion boxes (in each rayon)*	50	20	-	1,000	
6c. *GM communication materials*	500	2	--	1,000	
6d. Grievance investigations/site visits	==	LS	60	15,000	Lump Sum
6e. Data Management System (setting up or maintenance)	1	LS	Entire project period	10,000	Lump Sum
7. Monitoring and Reporting					
Reporting on updates		2000	60	10,000	
TOTAL				**509,000**	
8. Contingencies (10%)				**50,900**	

Budget categories	Quantity	Unit costs (AZN)	Months	Total costs (AZN)	Remarks
GRAND TOTAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT BUDGET:				**559,900**	

TRAINING

In line with the SEP capacity-building and training requirements, Azerenerji organized a training session on 24 April 2026 for PIU, Contractor, and subcontractor personnel covering environmental and social requirements, HSE, stakeholder engagement, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), SEA/SH awareness and prevention measures. A total of 43 participants from the PIU, Contractor, and subcontractor personnel attended the training session.

First, Mr. Eldeniz Nazaraliyev, a HSE of the PIU, delivered a presentation and provided the participants with detailed information about HSE requirements and procedures.

Afterwards, Mr. Orkhan Adigozelov, an Independent Expert delivered a presentation on Working at Height. During the session, participants were informed about the main occupational safety requirements, potential risks associated with working at height, and preventive measures to ensure a safe working environment. The importance of using personal protective equipment (PPE), following safety procedures, and complying with HSE standards during project activities was also emphasized.

Later, Ms. Ilaha Ilyasova delivered a presentation on Environmental Protection and Biodiversity. During the presentation, participants were informed about the importance of environmental sustainability within project activities, the protection of biodiversity, and the prevention of potential environmental impacts during construction and operational works. Special attention was given to waste management, protection of natural habitats, compliance with environmental requirements, and raising environmental awareness among contractor and subcontractor personnel.

In addition, the importance of minimizing impacts on local ecosystems and ensuring that all project activities are carried out in accordance with both national environmental legislation and international environmental standards was emphasized. Participants were also reminded of their responsibilities regarding environmental monitoring, pollution prevention, and the proper implementation of mitigation measures throughout the project lifecycle.

Afterwards, Mr. Ceyhun Pashayev delivered a presentation on Land Entry and Exit Protocols. During the session, participants were provided with detailed information regarding the procedures and requirements related to entering and leaving project-affected land areas. The presentation emphasized the importance of complying with established access procedures, respecting landowner rights, and ensuring that all activities are conducted in a transparent and well-coordinated manner.

Participants were also informed about notification procedures before entering private or community lands, proper documentation requirements, and the responsibilities of contractors and subcontractors during field activities. Particular attention was given to minimizing disturbances to local communities, agricultural activities, and private property during project implementation.

In addition, the presentation highlighted the importance of maintaining good communication with affected landowners and local stakeholders, as well as ensuring compliance with project commitments, national legislation, and international environmental and social standards. The session also stressed the need for proper restoration of land conditions after the completion of works and the importance of addressing any concerns or grievances raised by affected persons in a timely and respectful manner.

Afterwards, Ms. Shams Mustafayeva, a Gender Expert, delivered a presentation on Gender-Based Violence, and SEA/SH. During the session, participants were informed about the importance of maintaining a safe, respectful, and inclusive working environment throughout the implementation of the project. The presentation covered the definitions of SEA/SH, examples of inappropriate behavior, and the potential social and professional consequences of such actions.

Special attention was given to prevention measures, professional conduct in the workplace, and the responsibilities of contractor and subcontractor personnel in ensuring compliance with the project's Code of Conduct and ethical standards. Participants were also informed about confidentiality principles, reporting mechanisms, survivor-centered approaches, and the importance of responding to complaints in a sensitive and respectful manner.

In addition, the session emphasized zero tolerance for any form of harassment, discrimination, or abuse within project activities. The importance of awareness-raising, mutual respect among employees, and creating a professional workplace culture aligned with both national legislation and international environmental and social standards was also highlighted.

Afterwards, Ms. Ziba Guliyeva, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist of the Supervision Engineer delivered a presentation on Incident Reporting, Chance Find Procedures, Community GRM, and Worker GRM. During the session, participants were informed about the importance of timely and accurate incident reporting, as well as the responsibilities of contractor and subcontractor personnel in reporting workplace accidents, unsafe conditions, environmental incidents, and other project-related issues.

The presentation also covered Chance Find Procedures, with particular emphasis on the actions that must be taken in the event of discovering any archaeological, historical, or culturally significant objects during project activities. Participants were informed about the importance of immediately stopping works in the affected area, notifying the responsible

authorities, and following established procedures in accordance with national legislation and project requirements.

In addition, detailed information was provided regarding the GRM for both community members and project workers. Participants were informed about the available grievance channels, complaint submission procedures, confidentiality principles, and the importance of addressing grievances in a transparent, fair, and timely manner. The session also emphasized the role of GRM in strengthening communication with local communities and workers, preventing conflicts, and ensuring compliance with international environmental and social standards throughout the project implementation process.

8.2. Contractors and subcontractors

The establishment and implementation of the SEP is under the responsibility of Azerenerji. Contractors and service providers will implement engagement activities and have to collaborate with Azerenerji within the framework of the Plan. Moreover, contractors and service providers should appoint a responsible person that will act as point of contact with Azerenerjı for all issues related to stakeholder engagement. Azerenerji, contractors and service providers have to liaise regularly to discuss on status of activities and on emerging issues that should be included in engagement activities. If Stakeholder engagement activities must be implemented in collaboration with the contractor and subcontractor, the SES will liaise with the responsible persons to discuss on planned activities and level of collaboration needed. The contractors and subcontractors have to report to Azerenerji on a periodic basis regarding general activities progress so that the information can be disclosed to stakeholders during the planned activities.

Contractor’s responsibilities:

The Contractor is responsible to implement stakeholder engagement activities assigned under the SEP and CESMP, maintain regular communication with affected communities and local authorities, provide advance notice of construction activities and potential disruptions, participate in consultations and community meetings, receive and promptly report grievances to the PIU, maintain records of stakeholder interactions, ensure workers comply with the Code of Conduct, and support timely resolution of community concerns in coordination with the Supervision Engineer and PIU.

The Contractor will deploy a full-time Social Specialist, conduct and optimize micro-routing to avoid impacts, manage the GRM and stakeholder communications, monitor field activities, implement land access protocols, ensure timely compensation and damage mitigation, and uphold community health, safety, and site control measures throughout construction.

Construction activities will be implemented by the Contractor and subcontractors in phased segments along the OHL corridor, with priority given to unoccupied state-owned

lands to minimize impacts on communities and land users. The Contractor will be responsible for stakeholder engagement during construction, including advance notification of works, coordination with local authorities and landowners, signing of Land Entry and Land Exit Protocols (LEP/LExP), management of temporary land access, restoration of affected land, and compensation for damages in accordance with the RAP. Subcontractors will be required to comply with the Project's environmental and social requirements, including stakeholder engagement, grievance management, community health and safety, and land access procedures under the supervision of the Contractor and Azerenerji.

9. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

As per ESS10 C – Grievance Mechanism, the Borrower is expected to respond to concerns and grievances of project-affected parties related to the environmental and social performance of the project in a timely manner (ESS10 par. 26). Further, "Where feasible and suitable for the project, the grievance mechanism[3] will utilize existing formal or informal grievance mechanisms, supplemented as needed with project-specific arrangements (ESS10 par. 27)." The major considerations are as follows:

(i) The grievance mechanism is expected to address concerns promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all project-affected parties, at no cost and without retribution. The mechanism, process or procedure will not prevent access to judicial or administrative remedies. The Borrower will inform the project-affected parties about the grievance process in the course of its community engagement activities, and will make publicly available a record documenting the responses to all grievances received; and
(ii) Handling of grievances will be done in a culturally appropriate manner and be discreet, objective, sensitive and responsive to the needs and concerns of the project-affected parties. The mechanism will also allow for anonymous complaints to be raised and addressed.

ESS10 Annex 1 par 2 provides some detailed GRM requirements which need to be incorporated in AZURE Project as follows:

a) Different ways in which users can submit their grievances, which may include submissions in person, by phone, text message, mail, e-mail or in a website;
b) A log where grievances are registered in writing and maintained as a database;
c) Publicly advertised procedures, setting out the length of time users can expect to wait for acknowledgement, response and resolution of their grievances;
d) Transparency about the grievance procedure, governing structure and decision makers; and
e) An appeals process (including the national judiciary) to which unsatisfied grievances may be referred when resolution of grievance has not been achieved

9.1. Establishing the AZURE GRM

The GRM in Stakeholder Engagement process is similar to what is presented in AZURE Resettlment Policy Framework, and in some instances both GRM's can work in parallel to resolve issues. Personnel and experts can be assigned to any or both GRM's for practically and consistency. The purpose of a grievance mechanism is to demonstrate responsiveness to stakeholder needs. A clear and widely publicized grievance mechanism improves stakeholder management by ensuring the grievances are documented in writing and clearly understood. All stakeholders are encouraged to submit written grievances and should be reassured that written submissions will not be used in any way to intimidate those submitting the complaints.

Key elements of a grievance mechanism include:

[3] WB ESF (2018) 100, note 9

- Clear instructions on how grievances are submitted and handled after submission, including a minimum period that a stakeholder must wait to receive a reply; and
- Alternatives for submitting a grievance in person to a staff member if a stakeholder is not able to or comfortable submitting a grievance in writing.

The Steps to be followed to address grievance within the SEP framework as per ESS10 requirements are as follows:

Step 1 Grievance Redress Commission (GRC): In conformance to ESS10 Annex 1 par 2 (a), the GRM will be accessible to the full range of project stakeholders, including project-affected parties, community members, civil society, media, and other interested parties. Stakeholders can use the GRM to submit complaints, feedback, queries, suggestions, or even compliments related to the overall management and implementation of the project. The GRM is intended to address issues and complaints from external stakeholders in an efficient, timely, and cost-effective manner. A separate mechanism will be used for worker grievances. The Azerenerji-PIU will be responsible for managing the stakeholder GRM following the roles and responsibilities outlined in the previous section.

A GRC will be formed by Azerenerji-PIU at the local level which shall consist, as a minimum, of representatives from: (i) the affected people, through recognized local leaders (e.g., officials of local executive power); (ii) the Contractor; (iii) Supervision Engineer (SE), to represent Azerenerji-PIU). The GRC will act as the mediator between aggrieved parties and will make efforts to resolve conflicts through mutual consent. The management of uptake channels can be delegated to PIU's SES, and later on a staff of the SE who can log in grievances received verbally (personal appearance, or phone), on-paper (documentary or traditional mail), or electronically (e-mail, website, WhatsApp, etc.). The contact details of uptake channels shall be made known to the **stakeholders**. Resolution steps will entail inspection, steaming the item logged to determine that it fulfils the status of "grievance", review, assessment of grievance, internal GRC deliberations, discussions with complainant, compromise and arriving at decisions. This process will be managed by SES. This step will have a time frame of 7-10 days.

Step 2 Azerenerji-PIU: Recommendations of the GRC are sent to the Azerenerji-PIU. The Azerenerji-PIU is responsible for addressing the grievances and if necessary, will forward these grievances to appropriate agencies/ offices for taking action. The person/organisation logging the grievance will be able to contact the Azerenerji-PIU through phone, email, direct meetings and letters. The contact details of Azerenerji-PIU (Point of Contact) will be distributed to the stakeholders and posted on the main locations in the communities before the commencement of AZURE implementation. In addition, in case of unresolved issues, the Azerenerji-PIU may resort to "mediation" by engaging SES as an option (ESS10 Annex 1 par 3). This step will have a time frame of 15 days.

Step 3 (Court of law): The court of the law will be the last resort. In principle, the aggrieved Parties can appeal to a relevant court anytime they disagree with the activity or inaction of the Project Implementors. However, the Project-specific GRM will be implemented fully and transparently in order to avoid complaints being escalated to the judicial level. Having said that, PAPs can apply to court if they disagree with the final

decision of GRM. This step will have a time frame as indicated in Civil_Procedural Code of Azerbaijan Republic.

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA) of Azerbaijan Republic is a governmental agency in charge of regulation of activities for protection of rights of women and children.

Following are survivor centric channel for SEA/SH complaints:

1. The SCFWCA and Child and Family Support Centers under the SCFWCA in 11 regions (including Ismayilli, and Hajigabul- project regions).
2. Executive Power offices and Municipalities in each region.
3. Monitoring group on gender violence and violence against children under the Executive Power in each region
4. Survival Centers for victims-NGOs accredited by Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population (MLSPP): “Temiz Dunya” Assistance to Women Public Union, “Temas” Regional Development Public Union, and “Azerbaijan Children” Public Union.
5. The hotline (860) of the SCFWCA for victims of gender-based violence
6. The Women's Resource Centers established by the SCFWCA in 10 regions (including Bilasuvar, Neftchala, Salyan, Goychay-project regions).

Establishing a RAP GRM

A GRM for RAP has been established to address grievances related to land acquisition, compensation, resettlement, and other environmental and social issues arising from Project implementation. The GRM provides stakeholders with accessible and confidential channels to submit grievances in person, by telephone, written petition, email, or through Azerenerji’s 186 hotline. Anonymous complaints will also be accepted. The mechanism applies principles of confidentiality and non-retaliation and does not restrict the legal rights of Project-Affected Persons (PAPs).

The grievance mechanism will operate through a multi-tier structure.

- At the first level, grievances will be addressed by the region-level Azerenerji office responsible for land acquisition and resettlement, with the objective of achieving prompt and informal resolution where possible.
- Grievances that cannot be resolved locally will be referred to a Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) composed of representatives from the Executive Authority, Municipality, Project Implementation Unit (PIU), contractors, and PAPs. The committee will facilitate mediation and seek mutually acceptable solutions.
- If resolution is still not achieved, the matter may be escalated by Azerenerji-PIU to relevant higher authorities, and formal mediation mechanisms may be utilized where appropriate. PAPs retain the right to pursue judicial remedies at any stage, independent of the GRM process.

Grievance intake, review, and resolution will follow defined timelines. Azerenerji will provide an initial acknowledgment as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours of receiving a recorded grievance. Each grievance will be documented in writing and tracked

in a database, including submission date, nature of the grievance, responsible party, proposed resolution, and closure status. The grievance management form is presented in Appendix E.

Active stakeholder engagement during land acquisition and resettlement implementation will aim to minimize grievances. Sensitive complaints, including SEA/SH-related cases, will be handled confidentially and referred to appropriate services as outlined in SEA/SH Response and Action Plan.

9.2. Protocols and Procedures for Sensitive Grievances

In order to be comprehensive in covering every possible aspects of grievances in the WB funded project, certain protocols and procedures for sensitive cases will have to be recognized and readily set up as the need arises. Among the sensitive cases that is brought to light would be those pertaining to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH). By definition[4], Sexual Exploitation pertains to “Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.” Sexual Abuse is “The actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions”. While Sexual Harassment “occurs between personnel and involves any unwelcome sexual advance or unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

In the context of a conservative society, social norms may form some barriers for complaints falling under these categories would go unreported. It is essential that emphasis is given on promoting an environment wherein the community, project workers and various stakeholders feel safe to report violations and trust that immediate and decisive action will be taken against perpetrators.

The complaint mechanisms should be safe, gender-sensitive, and appropriate to the context, maintaining neutrality and confidentiality before and during deliberation of matters. GRM functions will be strengthened to ensure timely, impartial, independent and fair investigations for SEA and SH. Azerenerji will take all measures to build trust for its investigation function, including, where appropriate, engaging independent third-parties with experience in handling such cases through channels appropriate for the project. Azerenerji will designate two staff (PIU’s gender specialist and SES) on handling such cases.

As part of the Project Effectiveness Conditions, Azerenerji has developed a SEA/SH Response and Action Plan which was recently furher tailored to Project needs and approved by SE. The Plan includes the established procedures for prevention, reporting, and management of such grievances.

The protocols and procedures for serious grievances should be based on the following principles:

[4] WB ESF (2018) 100, note 9

- All complaints received will be filed and kept confidential. For statistical purposes, cases will be anonymized and bundled to avoid identification of persons involved. It will be made known that grievences can be logged anonymously.
- After reaching a solution to a case, the Grievance Counsellor as the case may be, will follow-up to ensure that the solutions are effective.
- Criminal cases will be referred to the public prosecutor.

In order to overcome gender risks the Project will have a Code of Conduct for all project workers (direct and contracted), with explicit prohibitions on SEA and harassment, and a zero-tolerance enforcement mechanism including contract termination provisions. The Project's grievance mechanism is structured to be GBV-sensitive grievance – confidential, accessible to women, with a documented referral pathway to local or regional support services. The Contractor will hire a female community liaison officer (CLO) that will engage with gender risks.

9.3. Grievance Logs

As part of ESS10 Annex 1 par 2 requirement for maintenance of "Grievance Logs and Data Base", the Azerenerji-PIU will maintain a grievance log as part of the SEP implementation, which will contain, at the minimum, the following information:

- Individual reference number;
- Name of the person submitting the complaint, question, or other feedback, address and/or contact information (unless the complaint has been submitted anonymously);
- Details of the complaint, feedback, or question/her location and details of his / her complaint;
- Date of the complaint;
- Name of person assigned to deal with the complaint (acknowledge to the complainant, investigate, propose resolutions, etc.);
- Details of proposed resolution, including person(s) who will be responsible for authorizing and implementing any corrective actions that are part of the proposed resolution;
- Date when proposed resolution was communicated to the complainant (unless anonymous);
- Date when the complainant acknowledged, in writing if possible, being informed of the proposed resolution;
- Details of whether the complainant was satisfied with the resolution, and whether the complaint can be closed out; and
- Date when the resolution is implemented (if any).

9.4. Monitoring and Reporting on Grievances

Details of monitoring and reporting are described below section 10. Day-to-day implementation of the GRM and reporting to the World Bank will be the responsibility of the Azerenerji-PIU. To ensure management oversight of grievance handling, an internal audit review will be spearheaded by PIU management for monitoring the overall process, including verification that agreed resolutions are actually implemented.

9.5. Central point of contact – PIU

The point of contact regarding the stakeholder engagement program (to be provided and updated by Azerenerji-PIU):

Description	Contact details
Name	Shahriyar Mammadov
Address	Abdulkarim Alizade 10, Baku AZ1005, Azerbaijan
Email	shahriyar.mammadov@azerenerji.gov.az
Telephone	+994 519448385

As part of ESS10 Annex 1 par 2, requirement for publicly advertising procedures, any information on the Project and future stakeholder engagement programs will available on the Azerenerji website and will be posted on information boards in the rayon's Executive Power Building. Information can also be obtained from Azerenerji in Baku City. Recent monthly E&S reports that document the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan may be disclosed on the Project website.

9.6. World Bank Grievance Redress System

Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a World Bank supported project may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance redress mechanisms of the WB's Grievance Redress Service (WBGRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the WBGRS, aggrieved persons or people with complaints may visit:

https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-andservices/grievance-redress-service.

For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel may be obtained at www.inspectionpanel.org.

10. MONITORING AND REPORTING

The SEP will be updated upon major project changes and for project phases: ESIA, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning. Updates will provide brief summaries of issues, concerns and questions raised during the previous year, as well as information on any changes between planned activities and the activities and events actually held. As explained throughout the SEP, stakeholder engagement is an underlying process that informs the on-going environmental and social management processes. The SEP will regularly list environmental and social reports that have been prepared and disclosed to the public. This process will be overseen by the Azerenerjı-PIU's SES.

A structured Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system has been established to track the implementation of the RAP and assess whether its objectives are achieved. Internal monitoring will be conducted by Azerenerji and the Contractor on a monthly basis, covering land acquisition progress, compensation payment status, LEP implementation, construction-related impacts, and GRM activity. To minimize the impact of construction, work will begin on unoccupied state-owned land; on privately owned plots, construction will be postponed until after the harvest, if possible, and minor route adjustments will be made. External monitoring will be conducted by an independent consultant on a semi-annual basis, covering socioeconomic outcome assessment, evaluation of livelihood restoration, and targeted monitoring of vulnerable group outcomes. An independent completion audit will be conducted at the conclusion of RAP implementation to verify whether all compensation obligations have been fulfilled and whether affected persons' livelihoods have been restored in conformity with ESS5.

10.1. Monitoring

The SEP will be monitored based on both qualitative reporting (based on progress reports) and quantitative reporting linked to results indicators on stakeholder engagement and grievance performance.

SEP reporting will include the following:

(i) Progress reporting on the ESS10-Stakeholder Engagement commitments under the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

(ii) Cumulative qualitative reporting on the feedback received during SEP activities, in particular (a) issues that have been raised that can be addressed through changes in project scope and design, and reflected in the basic documentation such as the Project Appraisal Document, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, Resettlement Action Plan, or SEA/SH Action Plan, if needed; (b) issues that have been raised and can be addressed during project implementation; (c) issues that have been raised that are beyond the scope of the project and are better addressed through alternative projects, programs or initiatives; and (d) issues that cannot be addressed by the project due to technical, jurisdictional or excessive cost-associated reasons. Minutes of meetings summarizing the views of the attendees can also be annexed to the monitoring reports.

(iii) Quantitative reporting based on the indicators included in the SEP. An illustrative set of indicators for monitoring and reporting is included in Appendix F. Monitoring and Reporting on the SEP will be conducted gathering information on GM,

Stakeholder engagement impact on project design and implementation and Implementation effectiveness.

The effectiveness of the RAP GRM will be monitored regularly. Resolution processes and outcomes will be documented, and improvements will be implemented as needed. The overall objective is to address stakeholder concerns in a timely manner and to support a socially sustainable resettlement process.

The correct implementation of this Plan is verified through internal inspections and audits to be carried out. The schedule, the frequency, the scope and objectives of the audit as well as the responsible internal auditors will comply to Azerenerjı's internal audit policy.

Internal auditing shall address:

- The correct implementation of this Plan;
- The compliance to the frequency and to the planned schedule of activities indicated in the Plan;
- Timely and effective reporting.

During the inspections the audit team shall address in particular:

- Review of Stakeholder Engagement Activities register to ensure that record is filled correctly;
- Review of Stakeholder Engagement Activity forms and dossiers to ensure that information and material is filed and registered correctly;
- Review of Stakeholder Register to ensure that the list is continuously updated;
- Review of periodic reports prepared by the SES to ensure that they are compiled correctly
- Levels of stakeholder participation in activities and of stakeholder satisfaction based on the information presented in the "lessoned learned" section of the Stakeholder Engagement Activity form.
- Levels of satisfaction to the Grievance Mechanism effectiveness based on the information presented in the "lessoned learned" section of the Grievance Record form.

Evidence and results of the inspection and audit activities have to be included in an audit reports. Azerenerjı's Management will review results of inspections and audits and the progress of the Preventive/Corrective actions and takes additional appropriate actions if necessary, according to the internal audit system.

10.2. Reporting

The outcomes of stakeholder engagement will be regularly reported both internally and externally. Stakeholders will be kept informed as the project develops, including reporting on project environmental and social performance and implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan and GRM, and on the project's overall implementation progress.

10.2.1. Internal reporting

With regards to internal reporting, the PIU's SES is responsible for liaising with management on a regular and on an as-needed basis, to inform on general progress of the Plan implementation and to seek advice when needed.

In addition, the PIU's SES will prepare formal periodic reports on a six monthly basis during the construction phase and at defined frequencies during the operation phase. Reports have to contain the following information:

- Overall data on number and typology of activities performed;
- Attendance and feedback from Stakeholders (through surveys and questionnaries, interviews, feedback forms);
- Problems and critical issues emerged;
- Status of Grievance Mechanism performance and critical issues emerged;
- Corrective actions taken within the Plan and schedule;
- Decisions to be taken with the management;

Reports will be presented during a six-monthly meeting to the Management and to any other staff deemed necessary.

10.2.2. External reporting to stakeholders

Azerenerji-PIU will prepare quarterly and semi-annual summaries and internal reports on public grievances, enquiries, and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventative actions will be collated by responsible staff and referred to the project managers.

Specific mechanisms to report back to the stakeholders include the following:

- Written reports
- Online social media
- Community meetings
- Leaflets

This reporting back to the stakeholders will be on a quarterly basis during the first three years and then and semi-annual basis.

10.2.3. Disclosure of ESF documents

ESF documents published on the official website (see below) in August 2024 and are subject to regular update upon the revisions made thereof.

The draft RAP published on the official website (see below) in April 2026, and is subject to regular update upon the revisions made thereof.

https://www.azerenerji.gov.az/azureproject

11. REFERENCES

WB, 2017. Environmental and Social Standards. Washington, D.C., USA.

IFC, 2007. Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets. Washington, D.C., USA.

IFC, 2012. Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability. Washington, D.C., USA.

APPENDIX A

Stakeholder Register

Name	Category
Project-Affected Parties for Component 1	
Property owners along the routes of OHLs	Project Site Stakeholder
People residing in the project areas	Project Site Stakeholder
Landowners -1114	Project Site Stakeholder
Formal tenants -22	Project Site Stakeholder
Businesses -11	Project Site Stakeholder
Private landowners and shareholders-1785	Within the easement corridor
Municipality and village representatives of the following municipalities/villages:	Project Site Stakeholder
Navahi settlement (Hajigabul) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Ranjbar village (Hajigabul) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Gizilburun village (Hajigabul) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Pirsaat village (Hajigabul) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Banka settlement (Neftchala) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Shirvanli village (Neftchala) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Yukhari Nokhudlu (Salyan) village administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Salmanli village (Salyan) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Khurshud village (Salyan) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Chukhanli village (Salyan) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Abadkand village (Salyan) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Khalaj village (Salyan) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Shakarli village (Salyan) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Yenikand village (Salyan) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Goylar village (Aghsu) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Langabiz village (Aghsu) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Bico village (Aghsu) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder

Name	Category
Garagoyunlu village (Aghsu) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Gubakhalilli village (İsmayilli) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Garamaryam village (Goychay) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Garabaggal village (Goychay) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Mirzahuseynli village (Goychay) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Arak village (Goychay) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Hushun village (Goychay) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Yukhari Aghjayazi village (Agdash) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Goshagovag village (Aghdash) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Arabojagi village (Aghdash) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Arash village (Yevlakh) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Aksham village (Yevlakh) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Gulovsha village (Yevlakh) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Havarli village (Yevlakh) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Hajiselli village (Yevlakh) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Salahli village (Yevlakh) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Huruushagi village (Yevlakh) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Tanrigulular village (Yevlakh) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Boshchali village (Yevlakh) administrative representative	Project Site Stakeholder
Businesses located in the project area who may be positively or negatively affected by the project	Project Site Stakeholder
Other Interested Parties for AZURE Project	
Executive power representative of the Hajigabul region	Governmental authorities at local level
Executive power representative of the Bilasuvar region	Governmental authorities at local level
Executive power representative of the Neftchala rayon region	Governmental authorities at local level
Executive power representative of the Salyan rayon region	Governmental authorities at local level
Executive power representative of the Aghsu region	Governmental authorities at local level

Name	Category
Executive power representative of the Yevlakh region	Governmental authorities at local level
Executive power representative of the Mingachevir city	Governmental authorities at local level
Executive power representative of the Aghdash rayon (region)	Governmental authorities at local level
Executive power representative of the Goychay region	Governmental authorities at local level
Executive power representative of the Gobustan region	Governmental authorities at local level
Executive power representative of the Absheron region	Governmental authorities at local level
Executive power representative of the Garadagh region	Governmental authorities at local level
Ministry of Energy	Governmental authorities at local level
Azerbaijan Railways JSC	Governmental authorities at local level
Health providers	Governmental authorities at local level
School representatives	Governmental authorities at local level
SEEA of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	Governmental authorities at national level
Ministry of Digital Development and Transport	Governmental authorities at national level
Ministry of Culture	Governmental authorities at national level
State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Governmental authorities at national level
Center of Hygiene and Epidemiology	Governmental authorities at local level
Masdar Azerbaijan	Private sector representatives at local level
AZERENERJI personnel	Project Personnel
NGOs, Trade Unions and etc	NGO
Media representatives	Media
Project-Affected Parties for Component 2	
AZERENERJI personnel	Project Personnel
Consulting companies	Project Personnel
Other Interested Parties for Component 2	
Ministry of Energy	Governmental authorities at local level
Ministry of Emergency Cases	Governmental authorities at local level

APPENDIX B Stakeholder Engagement Activities Register Templates

Example of Stakeholder Engagement Activities Register

ID	Typology	Date	Location	Title of the meeting
1	Public meeting			
2	Public meeting			
3	Public meeting			
4	Public meeting			
5	Public meeting			

APPENDIX C Example of Stakeholder Engagement Activity Form

Number:	
Engagement Activity:	
Location and Date:	
Description of the activity or event	
Project Phase:	
Typology:	
Announcements and communication:	
Minutes of Meeting reference:	
Attendees Stakeholders	
Attendees AZERENERJI	
Activity Details	
Agenda:	
Presentation material used:	
Discussion points:	

Outcomes: **Summary of feedback provided**	
Follow up Actions/Next steps to be taken:	
Lesson learned	
Other notes	

APPENDIX D

Grievance Mechanism Register Templates

No	Complainant	Grievance Description	Submission date	Receipt date	Submission Method	Closure date
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

APPENDIX E

Grievance Management Form

Grievance Information	
ID:	
Title:	
Submission method:	
Date of submission:	
Date of receipt:	

Complainant details			
Name:			
Organization:			
Address: Telephone/ Fax: Email:			

Details on the reported Grievance
Location of the grievance Assets and Activities involves Any other party involves

Grievance review		
Is grievance eligible for mechanism:	Y/N	
Date completed:		
Description of the review and result		

Grievance assessment and resolution	
Grievance category:	

Parties involved in assessment:	

Resolution and Corrective actions
Description

Resolution and Corrective actions

Action to be Taken	**Responsible**	**Date/period**
1.		
2.		
3.		

Records of any meeting held during the process		
Date	**Attendees**	**Outcomes**

Records of any other Communication			
Date	**Recipient**	**Type**	**Content**

Closure			
Was complainant satisfied:	Yes/No/Partially		
Description			
Date of closure:		**Signature :**	

APPENDIX F.

Monitoring and Reporting on the SEP

Key evaluation questions	Specific Evaluation questions	Potential Indicators	Data Collection Methods
GM. To what extent have project-affected parties been provided with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances? Has the implementing agency responded to and managed such grievances?	• Are project affected parties raising issues and grievances? • How quickly/effectively are the grievances resolved?	• Usage of GM and/or feedback mechanisms • Requests for information from relevant agencies. • Use of suggestion boxes placed in the villages/project communities. • Number of grievances raised by workers, disaggregated by gender of workers and worksite, resolved within a specified time frame. • Number of Sexual Exploitation, and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) cases reported in the project areas, which were referred for health, social, legal and security support according to the referral process in place. (if applicable) • Number of grievances that have been (i) opened, (ii) opened for more than 30 days, (iii) resolved, (iv) closed, and (v) number of responses that satisfied the complainants, during the reporting period disaggregated by category of grievance, gender, age, and location of complainant.	Records from the implementing agency and other relevant agencies
Stakeholder engagement impact on project design and implementation. How have engagement activities made a difference in project design and implementation?	• Was there interest and support for the project? • Were there any adjustments made during project design and implementation based on the feedback received? • Was priority information disclosed to relevant parties throughout the project cycle?	• Active participation of stakeholders in activities • Number of actions taken in a timely manner in response to feedback received during consultation sessions with project affected parties. • Number of consultation meetings and public discussions where the feedback and recommendation received is	Stakeholder Consultation Attendance Sheets/Minutes Evaluation forms Structured surveys Social media/traditional media entries on the project results

Key evaluation questions	Specific Evaluation questions	Potential Indicators	Data Collection Methods
		reflected in project design and implementation. • Number of disaggregated engagement sessions held, focused on at-risk groups in the project.	
Implementation effectiveness. Were stakeholder engagement activities effective in implementation?	• Were the activities implemented as planned? Why or why not? • Was the stakeholder engagement approach inclusive of disaggregated groups? Why or why not?	• Percentage of SEP activities implemented. • Key barriers to participation identified with stakeholder representatives. • Number of adjustments made in the stakeholder engagement approach to improve projects' outreach, inclusion and effectiveness.	Communication Strategy (Consultation Schedule) Periodic Focus Group Discussions Face-to-face meetings and/or Focus Group discussions with Vulnerable Groups or their representatives

Appendix G:

Azerbaijan Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Project

Public Consultations on disclosure of the Environmental and Social Documents

(Conducted with stakeholder representatives from Hajigabul, Shamakhi, Aghsu, Ismayilli, Goychay, Aghdash, Yevlakh regions and Mingachevir town of Azerbaijan, 30 September - 2 October 2024.)

Background:

As part of the environmental and social requirements for the preparation of ES documents, public consultations (PC) were held in the Hajigabul, Shamakhi, Aghsu, Ismayilli, Goychay, Aghdash, Yevlakh regions and Mingachevir town in Azerbaijan.

The Objectives and Purposes of the Public Consultations:

- Providing information on the Project scope (general details, objectives, components, etc.);
- Presenting AZURE Project Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Documents (***Scoping Report, Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Labour Management Procedures (LMP))*** that describe potential socio-environmental impacts of the Project activities and corresponding mitigations;
- Responding questions related to the above-mentioned documentations; and
- Receiving comments and feedback to be incorporated into the final versions of environmental and social framework (ESF) documents.

Methodology:

Digital copies of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) documents have been posted on the official websites of Azerenerji JSC (see Appendix 1 for relevant web links). In addition, the official website of Azerenerji JSC also contains an additional note indicating that any interested party can use the organisation's official contact details (telephone, e-mail and postal addresses) to send further feedback and suggestions.

The AZURE Project Public Consultations were organized with the support of the Local Executive Powers of the Rayons and Regional Electricity Network Offices of Azerenerji (REN), who informed their local citizens about the event as part of the outreach activities. People were informed about the upcoming consultations to present the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), which are currently being prepared by consulting companies. The grievance redress mechanism will also be posted on the above mentioned websites for the guidance of stakeholders and the general public prior to the commencement of the actual works.

Location: Agsu Region, Bijo village[5]
Date and time: October 1, 2024, 10:00 AM
Participants: 28 people (representatives of interested parties from Bijo, Langabiz and Gashad villages)

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- A representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Cabrayil Ahmadov (Legal Advisor, Legal Division under the Human Resources and Services Department of Azerenerji JSC) informed the audience that the GoA, through Azerenerji, the State Enterprise for Electricity Generation and Transmission, has planned the grid readiness for the integration of 1 GW of solar and wind energy by 2027. The participants were informed that the project will be jointly financed by the GoA and the WB, with the GoA financing the construction of the 330 kV part of the 500/330/10 kV Navahi substation, the connection of the Bilasuvar and Banka solar power plants to the Navahi substation with 330 kV lines, and to the Absheron substation with a 500 kV line temporarily operating at 330 kV, while the WB will finance (i) the supply and installation of equipment for the 500 and 10 kV parts of the Navahi substation (2x 500 MVA); (ii) expansion of 500 kV bays at Absheron and Azerbaijan TPP substations; and (iii) expansion of 330 kV bays at Mingachevir HPP, Gobu PP and Alat substations.

Ilaha Ilyasova (Environmental and Social Safeguards Coordinator of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) presented the ESF documents to the communities of the region and explained that the draft Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) documents describe the potential socio-environmental impacts and mitigation measures that have been prepared as part of the project and in accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards and the relevant legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The scope and main environmental and socio-economic aspects of the Scoping Report to be further developed in the ESIA were communicated to the people; the institutional framework within the RPF for handling all land acquisition and socio-economic impacts was presented to the communities along with the RAP activities to be further carried out by the consultant.

Ziba Guliyeva (Stakeholder Engagement Specialist of PIU, Azerenerji JSC) presented the SEP and LMP documents and mentioned the importance of stakeholder engagement in the implementation of infrastructure projects, described the stakeholder engagement process in the AZURE project, as well as the main provisions of labour management, including grievance redress mechanisms.

[5]Villagers from the nearby Langabiz and Gashad villages of Agsu Rayon were also invited to the meeting.

Communities were informed that these documents were now open to the public for questions and comments. It was also mentioned that the full electronic versions of the documents were available on the official Azerenerji website.

To facilitate the observation of the OHL alignment and the dissemination of information, the participants were provided with village-level maps showing the direction of the OHLs through their villages. The meeting continued with a question and answer session.

Questions	**Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)**
Will people be informed about the project design and construction plan before construction starts?	**Ziba Guliyeva** – People will be regularly consulted on SEP activities and informed of all upcoming project stages.
The OHLs will negatively affect the health of the population and the environment due to radiation and effects from electrical energy.	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** According to national construction standards, the distance to nearby settlements should not be closer than 8-10m, and the height of the 330kV and 500kV transmission lines should be at least 8m to avoid radiation exposure. In fact, all project OHLs avoid settlement areas and the height in Azerbaijan is usually 10 or higher.
Regarding employment, you mentioned that locals will be given priority for project activities. However, this does not sound very promising as in other projects carried out in the village area, the contractors usually hire friends and/or relatives or bring in labour from other communities.	**Ilaha Ilyasova** – The contractors will be encouraged to involve the local communities in the skilled and non-skilled works according to their capacity.
I am happy to hear about this project, its aims and the benefits it will bring to us all. At the same time, I am concerned and do not believe that all the mitigation measures will be implemented as we have already experienced a similar OHL construction project that destroyed our agricultural lands and access roads. So I personally don't believe that this project will be beneficial to the community.	**Ilaha Ilyasova** – There will be a different approach to this project. Negative impacts of the project construction works have been studied and all prevention and mitigation measures have been recommended accordingly in the ESIA document. The document will be shared with the project communities. A traffic management plan will be developed, taking into account the access roads to the project, which will be discussed and agreed with the communities and the relevant traffic police. The contractor will be required to ensure that the roads are repaired before leaving the communities. The Supervision Engineer will ensure the implementation of mitigation measures and the Grievance Redress Mechanism will set out the means for addressing your concerns and grievances. Hotlines and contact details of responsible persons will be provided. On completion of construction, project sites and access roads

Questions	Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)
	will be rehabilitated and handed over to the owners.
Please avoid impacting our village and community.	**Ilaha Ilyasova** As mentioned above, no physical replacement in the residential area of the villages is expected. Temporary impacts will be mitigated by the contractor and implementation will be monitored by the supervising engineer and Azerenerji. Grievance mechanisms will be in place to address any issues related to the project activities.
Thank you for this meeting and for the information you have shared with us. All these measures dedicated to preventing various impacts sound good, please make sure that your activities will be consistent with the information you have shared.	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** As mentioned above, appropriate mechanisms will also be in place to ensure the implementation of the notified measures.

Similar consultations with disclosure of ESF documents were held in the meetings organised for the villagers of ***Gegeli and Dashdamirbeyli (01 October 2024; 11:00)*** and ***Garagoyunlu and Ulguch (01 October 2024; 12:30) of*** Agsu region. These meetings were attended by representatives of the village municipalities and executive representatives, as well as representatives of the Mingachevir Regional Electricity Network.

The people of ***Gegeli and Dashdamirbeyli*** are particularly concerned about the condition of some of the existing OHLs, which have been out of service for a long time and are dangerous. On the other hand, people are still under the negative impression they experienced during the construction of the Oghuz-Qabala Gaz pipeline, when temporary impacts on private properties during the construction works were not rehabilitated, and access roads and landscape of private properties remained destroyed. Poor electricity supply was another challenge for the local population. In turn, the people were again informed about the grievance redressal mechanisms that they can use if they experience any problems related to the project activities and the various stakeholder engagement activities that are being considered for this particular project.

People also mentioned an old, disused OHL that is no longer in use, so they would like the pylons to be removed from their plots, freeing up the land taken and increasing the area of agricultural activity. The people also expressed their wish to move the OHL line up into the mountainous area to avoid any land acquisition / easement.

The villagers of ***Garagoyunlu and Ulguch*** village of Agsu region were interested in whether compensation would be paid for the agricultural land affected. In contrast to the Oguz-Qebele pipeline project mentioned above, they would like to see a fair impact assessment and payment.

Representatives from all these villages expressed interest in employment opportunities and people's willingness to work.

Location: Ismayilli Region, Qubakhalilli village
Date and time: October 1, 2024, 15:00
Participants: 38 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Gubakhalilli village of Ismayilli region, as well as Garabaggal and Garamaryam villages of Goychay region)

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Cabrayil Ahmadov (Legal Advisor, Legal Division under the Human Resources and Services Department of Azerenerji JSC) informed the audience that the GoA, through Azerenerji, the State Enterprise for Electricity Generation and Transmission, has planned the grid readiness for the integration of 1 GW of solar and wind energy by 2027. The participants were informed that the project will be jointly financed by the GoA and the WB, with the GoA financing the construction of the 330 kV part of the 500/330/10 kV Navahi substation, the connection of the Bilasuvar and Banka solar power plants to the Navahi substation with 330 kV lines, and to the Absheron substation with a 500 kV line temporarily operating at 330 kV, while the WB will finance (i) the supply and installation of equipment for the 500 and 10 kV parts of the Navahi substation (2x 500 MVA); (ii) expansion of 500 kV bays at Absheron and Azerbaijan TPP substations; and (iii) expansion of 330 kV bays at Mingachevir HPP, Gobu PP and Alat substations.

Ilaha Ilyasova (Environmental and Social Safeguards Coordinator of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) presented the ESF documents to the communities of the region and explained that the draft Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) documents describe the potential socio-environmental impacts and mitigation measures that have been prepared as part of the project and in accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards and the relevant legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The scope and main environmental and socio-economic aspects of the Scoping Report to be further developed in the ESIA were communicated to the people; the institutional framework within the RPF for handling all land acquisition and socio-economic impacts was presented to the communities along with the RAP activities to be further carried out by the consultant.

Ziba Guliyeva (Stakeholder Engagement Specialist of PIU, Azerenerji JSC) presented the SEP and LMP documents and mentioned the importance of stakeholder engagement in the implementation of infrastructure projects, described the stakeholder engagement process in the AZURE project, as well as the main provisions of labour management, including grievance redress mechanisms.

Communities were informed that these documents were now open to the public for questions and comments. It was also mentioned that the full electronic versions of the documents were available on the official Azerenerji website.

To facilitate the observation of the OHL alignment and the dissemination of information, the participants were provided with village-level maps showing the direction of the OHLs through their villages. The meeting continued with a question and answer session.

Questions	**Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)**
It's been a long time since the water pipes were laid to the village. But we are still suffering from a lack of water supply. We think that a proper electricity supply will hardly reach us either.	**Ilaha Ilyasova** – As mentioned above, work on the ES impact assessment is ongoing. Construction is expected to start next year.
Show us the direction of the lines. One of the existing lines goes through my land. I wonder if the new one will also go through my land?	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** Here is the map, please have a look at the direction of the OHLs. Affected land will be compensated by mutual agreement. Detailed information will be provided once the detailed design and impact assessment is complete.
Qaramaryam and Qarabaggal are two of the largest villages in Goychay rayon. I believe that this project will benefit the villagers by paying compensation for the affected land and providing employment opportunities to the people. We wish you success and please ensure that people benefit from the project activities.	**Ziba Guliyeva** – Contractors will be encouraged to involve local communities in skilled and non-skilled work according to their capabilities. Compensation will be paid in accordance with national regulations. During the ongoing stakeholder engagement activities of the project, you will be additionally consulted on these issues.
It is important to know whether or not the local people are going to be employed. There are some houses where only one person gets a salary or pension, and it is difficult to live, the prices of everything have gone up. For example, the price of internet has gone up from 18 AZN to 25 AZN.	**Ziba Guliyeva** – Contractors will be encouraged to involve local communities in skilled and non-skilled work according to their capacity. You will also be consulted on these matters during ongoing stakeholder engagement activities throughout the project cycle.
My neighbour bought the land and the lines cross her land and it is very dangerous. Putting the lines up in the mountains instead of near the village would be a good approach.	**Ilaha Ilyasova** – The aim is to avoid residential areas and to stay as far away from private property as possible. All safety measures will be implemented. The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be in place to address any issues related to project impacts and concerns.
When I used to work for a village municipality, people suffered negative impacts from road construction. Temporary impacts on people's private agricultural land due to the location and movement of the	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** A traffic management plan will be developed by contractor and agreed with the local authorities. If temporary impacts are unavoidable, compensation will be paid by the Contractor in agreement with

Questions	Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)
contractor's equipment were not mitigated. As we have witnessed this, please ensure that all necessary mitigation measures are implemented in this project. Furthermore, we have witnessed previous projects where affected landowners did not receive compensation for the affected land. Please also ensure that heavy machinery is transported in such a way that it does not temporarily affect private farmland, or provide compensation for the impact.	the landowner. Mitigation measures will be implemented and their implementation managed by the Contractor's E&S Safeguards Specialists and SE teams. You can also use the grievance redress mechanisms that will be set up and introduced in all the communities through which the OHLs pass to express your concerns and grievances.
Job opportunities are very important to us. This will also stop the current migration of young people to the nearby big cities and the capital, which most of our young people have to leave to look for work and to leave their families behind.	**Ziba Guliyeva** – Contractors will be encouraged to involve local communities in skilled and non-skilled work according to their capacity. You will also be consulted on these and other matters during ongoing stakeholder engagement activities throughout the project cycle.

Location: Goychay Region, Arabchabirli 2 village
Date and time: October 1, 2024, 17:00 AM
Participants: 23 people (representatives of interested parties from Arabchabirli 1, Arabchabirli 2 and Mirzahuseyinli villages)

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and

Minutes of the meeting

Cabrayil Ahmadov (Legal Advisor, Legal Division under the Human Resources and Services Department of Azerenerji JSC) informed the audience that the GoA, through Azerenerji, the State Enterprise for Electricity Generation and Transmission, has planned the grid readiness for the integration of 1 GW of solar and wind energy by 2027. The participants were informed that the project will be jointly financed by the GoA and the WB, with the GoA financing the construction of the 330 kV part of the 500/330/10 kV Navahi substation, the connection of the Bilasuvar and Banka solar power plants to the Navahi substation with 330 kV lines, and to the Absheron substation with a 500 kV line temporarily operating at 330 kV, while the WB will finance (i) the supply and installation of equipment for the 500 and 10 kV parts of the Navahi substation (2x 500 MVA); (ii) expansion of 500 kV bays at Absheron and Azerbaijan TPP substations; and (iii) expansion of 330 kV bays at Mingachevir HPP, Gobu PP and Alat substations.

Ilaha Ilyasova (Environmental and Social Safeguards Coordinator of the PIU, Azerenerji OSC) presented the ESF documents to the communities of the region and explained that the draft Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) documents describe the potential socio-environmental impacts and mitigation measures that have been prepared as part of the project and in accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards and the relevant legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The scope and main environmental and socio-economic aspects of the Scoping Report to be further developed in the ESIA were communicated to the people; the institutional framework within the RPF for handling all land acquisition and socio-economic impacts was presented to the communities along with the RAP activities to be further carried out by the consultant.

Ziba Guliyeva (Stakeholder Engagement Specialist of PIU, Azerenerji JSC) presented the SEP and LMP documents and mentioned the importance of stakeholder engagement in the implementation of infrastructure projects, described the stakeholder engagement process in the AZURE project, as well as the main provisions of labour management, including grievance redress mechanisms.
Communities were informed that these documents were now open to the public for questions and comments. It was also mentioned that the full electronic versions of the documents were available on the official Azerenerji website.

To facilitate the observation of the OHL alignment and the dissemination of information, the participants were provided with village-level maps showing the direction of the OHLs through their villages. The meeting continued with a question and answer session.

Questions	**Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)**
Where will the lines be installed? Will compensation be paid for all private land?	**Ilaha Ilyasova** - Outside the residential areas of the village, mostly in the agricultural areas. You can take a look at the map. Yes, all affected private property will be compensated.
Please ensure that the OHL is high enough to allow agricultural machinery to move.	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** According to the Azerbaijan State Construction Normative, the height of the 330kV OHL is at least 8m, which is sufficient to move the agricultural equipment.
What are the benefits to our villagers?	**Ziba Guliyeva** – Short and long term benefits are expected - employment opportunities, local market demand and improved power supply.
Please reconsider the alignment through our village and move it up the mountain.	**Ilaha Ilyasova** – The given direction is considered to be the best of the alternatives in terms of minimising environmental and social impacts.

Location: Mingachevir town, Mingachevir REN
Date and time: October 2, 2024, 10:00
Participants: 41 people (representatives of interested parties from Mingachevir town, including people working in Mingachevir REN and from various industries in Mingachevir)

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- A representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Cabrayil Ahmadov (Legal Advisor, Legal Division under the Human Resources and Services Department of Azerenerji JSC) informed the audience that the GoA, through Azerenerji, the State Enterprise for Electricity Generation and Transmission, has planned the grid readiness for the integration of 1 GW of solar and wind energy by 2027. The participants were informed that the project will be jointly financed by the GoA and the WB, with the GoA financing the construction of the 330 kV part of the 500/330/10 kV Navahi substation, the connection of the Bilasuvar and Banka solar power plants to the Navahi substation with 330 kV lines, and to the Absheron substation with a 500 kV line temporarily operating at 330 kV, while the WB will finance (i) the supply and installation of equipment for the 500 and 10 kV parts of the Navahi substation (2x 500 MVA); (ii) expansion of 500 kV bays at Absheron and Azerbaijan TPP substations; and (iii) expansion of 330 kV bays at Mingachevir HPP, Gobu PP and Alat substations.

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Communities were informed that these documents were now open to the public for questions and comments. It was also mentioned that the full electronic versions of the documents were available on the official Azerenerji website.

To facilitate the observation of the OHL alignment and the dissemination of information, the participants were provided with village-level maps showing the direction of the OHLs through their villages. The meeting continued with a question and answer session.

Questions	**Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)**
Thank you for the project and for sharing the information. Usually most people are not aware of the Right of Way (ROW) of the OHL, so whenever we check the OHL we find that people who are allowed to use the land temporarily are using it in their own way, building something, etc. So then we have to raise the issue with the different institutions to solve these problems. Then they start demanding ownership of the land. We start explaining that you have been given temporary access to the land, not for permanent use. So they start fencing the land, selling it, even taking the access roads to the OHL that we left for maintenance. Or they start digging, earthmoving, or as a result of their activities, if there is a fire, the emergency vehicles cannot get there because of the earthmoving and excavation. Someone has leased the land, but the land is not in his name; no documentation was done when the land was leased. When the court examines the case, it finds that the name of the lessee is not registered. It is believed that some houses are being built on the informally occupied land, during the construction someone can say that it is his land but he doesn't have a registration document. Please be aware that you can expect this kind of problem. We warn them and if this happens, we are obliged to send letters to various organizations and the police. When the land parcel is considered, all the restrictions, requirements and purpose of the land must be explained to the people. We suggest that all the requirements are explained to the landowners as well as to the relevant municipal and executive	**Ilaha Ilyasova** – In assessing the impact of OHL construction, ownership will be investigated accordingly; unauthorised users will only be compensated for crops and trees they have grown; compensation for affected private land parts will be paid to the owners accordingly. Compensation for land within the OHL ROW will not be considered. Full details of the assessment of impacts on all types of land will be shared with communities during the preparation of the RAP. **Jabrayil Ahmadov -** How many people have applied for jobs at Mingechevir Electricity Network, but can't be employed according to their speciality? Workers are needed to supervise the installation of power lines during operation.

Questions	Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)
authorities and the Department of Cadastral Registry to prevent any further problems. The land must be used in accordance with its purpose. - The positive thing is that the energy sector will become strong, ensuring uninterrupted energy supply and even distribution of energy to the surrounding countries. Furthermore, we believe that employment opportunities are not only considered for the construction period; a new engineering staff of locals and existing new REN staff can be involved in maintenance works for these AZURE project OHLs.	
We have skilled workers, about 50 people who want to be employed. These people will have opportunities to be employed for this project, not only in Mingachevir but also in other places.	**Jabrayil Ahmadov –** Contractors will be advised to obtain the list/CVs from Mingechevir HR and recruit people who match the job requirements. This is a good activity and will promote the employment of local people.
It's worrying because the plots are under power lines and when it rains it becomes dangerous and noisy and people are afraid to harvest their crops.	**Jabrayil Ahmadov** – The people are advised to stay away from the "protection zone" when the OHLs are being built. Most of the similar land parcels are located in the "protection zone", therefore the people face this problem. Some unauthorised constructions built in the ROW of the OHLs may pose risks. The purpose of these land parcels was agricultural land, but people have changed it somehow, so problems arise.
How will the compensation be paid?	**Ilaha Ilyasova** – The main objective is not to cross the residential areas. But the towers that will be built in the plots will occupy 64 or smth kvm of the land and these small parts will be taken on the basis of easement. It is not a purchase of the land; it is a lease of the land parcels and the prices will be calculated best on the market value and mutual agreement with the land owners and compensation will be paid. It is currently in the planning stage. Relevant laws will be applied. In the next stage, the RAP will be prepared. PAPs will be identified, impacts assessed and negotiations held with them. Agreements will be reached with landowners.
Ensure that project equipment does not disrupt urban traffic by properly maintaining the edges of the access roads.	**Ilaha Ilyasova -** The ESMP will be prepared and the contractor will be required to detail the mitigation measures. The contractor will

Questions	Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)
	be allowed to set up a camp, purchase equipment, etc., and will be required to restore the land upon completion of the works. The supervising engineer will monitor the contractor's work.
If necessary, road signs must be erected. Land users must see the signs and understand that they cannot occupy the land within the ROW. Will be good to employ vulnerable people, or from their families.	**Ziba Guliyeva -** A traffic management plan will be developed and agreed with the local traffic police, communicated to the public and followed up by the contractor; a public awareness campaign will also be carried out during the project cycle.
My husband works at Azerenerji and he faces problems every day because the landowners don't respect the contract in the protected zone. They go beyond the boundaries of the land and into the ROW. They block the access roads and carry out earthworks that make it very difficult for the engineers to get to the towers.	**Ziba Guliyeva –** Awareness-raising campaigns will also be carried out in subsequent phases of the project. People will learn about the circumstances of this type of interference.
The positive impact of the project for us is that employment will improve. Our children with higher education can get jobs here, otherwise they would have to leave the city. There are very few women employed in this office; we propose to employ more women. There are jobs that woman can do in Azerenerji.	**Ziba Guliyeva –** Contractors will be instructed to hire local people and specialists first. Women will be given priority.
My daughter has graduated from the Faculty of Transport Operators and she has applied to Azerenerji as she is very keen to work in the energy sector.	**Ziba Guliyeva –** Contractors will be instructed to hire local people and specialists first. AZURE project will impose employment of highly qualified engineers at REN all over Azerbaijan for a long term, so your daughter can take this opportunity and apply.
I have been working in Mingachevir REN for 42 years, but my contract has been cancelled, now I am working in DOST and I wish to be back to Mingachevir REN.	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** The AZURE project will also create a demand for certified specialists for the construction and operation phases, including engineers. You can also apply and we wish you all the best!
Whatever the challenges for women working in the energy sector, we accept the difficulties.	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** Very good to hear that.

Location: Yevlakh Region, Tanrigulular village
Date and time: October 2, 2024, 12:00 AM
Participants: 35 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Tanrigulular, Boshchali and Huruushaghi villages of Yevlakh region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;

- Village residents; and
- A representative of the service organizations**.**

Minutes of the meeting

Cabrayil Ahmadov (Legal Advisor, Legal Division under the Human Resources and Services Department of Azerenerji JSC) informed the audience that the GoA, through Azerenerji, the State Enterprise for Electricity Generation and Transmission, has planned the grid readiness for the integration of 1 GW of solar and wind energy by 2027. The participants were informed that the project will be jointly financed by the GoA and the WB, with the GoA financing the construction of the 330 kV part of the 500/330/10 kV Navahi substation, the connection of the Bilasuvar and Banka solar power plants to the Navahi substation with 330 kV lines, and to the Absheron substation with a 500 kV line temporarily operating at 330 kV, while the WB will finance (i) the supply and installation of equipment for the 500 and 10 kV parts of the Navahi substation (2x 500 MVA); (ii) expansion of 500 kV bays at Absheron and Azerbaijan TPP substations; and (iii) expansion of 330 kV bays at Mingachevir HPP, Gobu PP and Alat substations.

Ilaha Ilyasova (Environmental and Social Safeguards Coordinator of the PIU, Azerenerji OSC) presented the ESF documents to the communities of the region and explained that the draft Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) documents describe the potential socio-environmental impacts and mitigation measures that have been prepared as part of the project and in accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards and the relevant legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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Ziba Guliyeva (Stakeholder Engagement Specialist of PIU, Azerenerji JSC) presented the SEP and LMP documents and mentioned the importance of stakeholder engagement in the implementation of infrastructure projects, described the stakeholder engagement process in the AZURE project, as well as the main provisions of labour management, including grievance redress mechanisms.

Communities were informed that these documents were now open to the public for questions and comments. It was also mentioned that the full electronic versions of the documents were available on the official Azerenerji website.

To facilitate the observation of the OHL alignment and the dissemination of information, the participants were provided with village-level maps showing the direction of the OHLs through their villages. The meeting continued with a question and answer session.

Questions	Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)
I have an old sick mother. I would like to have a hospital in this village so that the ambulance can get here on time. There are not many jobs here, and we also need job opportunities.	**Jabrail Ahmadov** – Yes, there will be such opportunities, for local skilled and unskilled workers. There will also be economic benefits, the demand for agricultural products will increase.
We have 5 OHL destroyed near our village residential area, on the road, very dangerous, please help.	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** We have representatives from the Regional Electricity Network here, they have recorded this. We will also pass this on to management.
The towers have been installed in my garden and there is rubbish around them. I ask for cleaning. I wouldn't want the OHL to go through my plot if it were up to me. But I would like to know if our thoughts will be taken into consideration or if the OHL will be built anyway.	**Ilaha Ilyasova** – All mitigation measures will be considered for this project. Waste management plan will be in place along with the other supplementary plans and monitoring activities will be undertaken. Grievance Redress Mechanisms will be presented for any issue arising from the project activities to be addressed. The supervising engineer will monitor the contractor's fulfilment of the ESMP. We will reflect your concerns in the report, please also be informed that the current alignment has been selected among other possible alternatives for having the least impact on people and environment.
We are happy with the project, but what are you going to do with the old 110kV lines? Sometimes the OHL leave their equipment on our land. Please make sure they are removed. Will you compensate the affected land?	**Jabrail Ahmadov –** The old ones will either be replaced and/or renewed accordingly. The local REN may leave the equipment within its ROW. Impacts will be compensated accordingly.
Will we be informed before the project starts?	**Ziba Guliyeva –** Yes, communities will already be aware of the impact assessment process and will also be involved in the preparation of the RAP.
We had a similar situation. The contractor left the camp area after the road construction project without prior rehabilitation and waste. What if the same happens in this project?	**Ilaha Ilyasova** - Your area will be properly cleaned at the end of construction in accordance with the ESMP. At the same time, grievance redressal mechanisms will be in place so that you can always raise your concerns if anything happens.
I wish there would be a job opportunity for my son.	**Ziba Guliyeva –** The communities will be informed of the construction work, and we will also recommend that the contractor employs local people first.

Similar consultations with the disclosure of ESF documents were held at the meetings organised for the villagers of ***Havarli, Hajiselli and Salahly villages in Yevlakh region (2 October 2024; 13.30).*** The people asked whether they would receive compensation for the damaged agricultural land. They also demanded that the local village authorities be informed about the construction schedule of the project activities. They also demanded

that construction impact mitigation measures be ensured. On the other hand, the locals expressed their willingness to give up the agricultural land in exchange for compensation. They said that the land they cultivate is not of good quality and requires a lot of effort. People expressed their understanding that the government's main resources and efforts are currently focused on improving the liberated rayons of Garabagh. Women expressed their satisfaction with the good supply of electricity, water and gas. As these villages are close to Mingachevir town, they have good utilities, access to Mingachevir market and hoped to be able to work for this project, cooking, cleaning, office work, etc.

Location: Agdash Region, Yukhari Agchayazi village
Date and time: October 2, 2024, 16:00
Participants: 26 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Hushun, Yekhari Agcayazi, Goshagovag and Arabochagi villages of Agdash Region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Cabrayil Ahmadov (Legal Advisor, Legal Division under the Human Resources and Services Department of Azerenerji JSC) informed the audience that the GoA, through Azerenerji, the State Enterprise for Electricity Generation and Transmission, has planned the grid readiness for the integration of 1 GW of solar and wind energy by 2027. The participants were informed that the project will be jointly financed by the GoA and the WB, with the GoA financing the construction of the 330 kV part of the 500/330/10 kV Navahi substation, the connection of the Bilasuvar and Banka solar power plants to the Navahi substation with 330 kV lines, and to the Absheron substation with a 500 kV line temporarily operating at 330 kV, while the WB will finance (i) the supply and installation of equipment for the 500 and 10 kV parts of the Navahi substation (2x 500 MVA); (ii) expansion of 500 kV bays at Absheron and Azerbaijan TPP substations; and (iii) expansion of 330 kV bays at Mingachevir HPP, Gobu PP and Alat substations.

Ilaha Ilyasova (Environmental and Social Safeguards Coordinator of the PIU, Azerenerji OSC) presented the ESF documents to the communities of the region and explained that the draft Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) documents describe the potential socio-environmental impacts and mitigation measures that have been prepared as part of the project and in accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards and the relevant legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The scope and main environmental and socio-economic aspects of the Scoping Report to be further developed in the ESIA were communicated to the people; the institutional framework within the RPF for handling all land acquisition and socio-economic impacts was presented to the communities along with the RAP activities to be further carried out by the consultant.

Ziba Guliyeva (Stakeholder Engagement Specialist of PIU, Azerenerji JSC) presented the SEP and LMP documents and mentioned the importance of stakeholder engagement in the implementation of infrastructure projects, described the stakeholder engagement process in the AZURE project, as well as the main provisions of labour management, including grievance redress mechanisms.

Communities were informed that these documents were now open to the public for questions and comments. It was also mentioned that the full electronic versions of the documents were available on the official Azerenerji website.

To facilitate the observation of the OHL alignment and the dissemination of information, the participants were provided with village-level maps showing the direction of the OHLs through their villages. The meeting continued with a question and answer session.

Questions	**Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)**
1. The project crosses from the non-irrigated land, the land of the village borders with the state land area. 99 ha is the grazing land. The grazing land will be trampled and wasted, and there will be a need for the road. 2. If the project crosses the land parcels, will the land owners be compensated? And how will this be done? 3. Are you considering a road to take livestock to the pastures? There must be an alternative road to take the livestock to the pasture.	**Ilaha Ilyasova -** If the tower is erected on the land parcels, these land parcels will be leased for a long period of time and compensation will be paid based on market prices. -If the contractor is going to use someone's land as a road, etc., he can negotiate individually with the landowner and come to an agreement on the temporary use of the person's land for designated purposes and the corresponding compensation. Upon completion of the works, the contractors shall rehabilitate the temporarily taken land before handing it over to the owners.
The people are not happy with the way the OHL is going to pass on the plots of land. The land is non-irrigatedland and wheat can't be grown in the summer. There is also a Turyanchay reserve. People can only plant wheat in autumn. Most of this land is like a desert. If there is a spark from electricity, there will be a fire in the land. At the bottom of the mountain, there is a government land, we propose to install the OHL in this land. We propose to install the OHLs in the upper places to reduce the risks. In the Gabala Water Project, 5 AZN was paid for one tree and this is not beneficial for the landowners. The current market price should be used to calculate compensation.	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** All possible alternatives to minimise the impact on private property have been considered and this design is the most appropriate. However, we will inform Azerenerji of your proposal. We are aware of the protected area and no impact on the protected areas is expected. Risk prevention measures will be considered during construction and operation. Assessment of affected crops and trees will be carried out in accordance with national legislation, Land Code. PAPs will be aware of their entitlements and how the calculation of each impacted item is to be carried out.
We suggest that the heavy machinery should not use the paved village roads. There is a possibility of an alternative road. The bridges are already in poor condition. We propose alternative routes to be discussed and agreed with the communities and executive authorities.	**Ilaha Ilyasova** – There will be a traffic management plan and the roads will be agreed with the local authorities and the police. It is important to inform the people, what their expectations are, what we mean by mitigation measures, etc. The works are planned for March-April next year. The lines will be checked against the cadastral map, they will be far from

	residential areas and the plots will be identified. We will also include your suggestions in the report.
We are afraid of radiation. My neighbour got married and lived in Gabala, but now she has moved to Agdash because she is afraid of the radiation in Gabala.	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** Residential areas will be avoided and the OHL will be built on agricultural land, taking into account the relevant standards.
You mentioned that chemicals will be used, will they affect our fruit etc? We would also like to see local people being employed. Which neighbouring villages will be affected by the project?	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** Concentrated hazardous chemical waste will accordingly be removed from the restricted area to a specially designated site for proper utilisation. A waste management plan will address these issues. No impact on orchards is expected. **Ziba Guliyeva** – Locals are given priority in employment according to their experience. You can have a look at the map. The villages of Hushun, Yukhari Agchayazi, Qoshaqovaq and Arabochagi in Agdash are crossed by the project's OHLs.
We are not happy with the compensation we have received from other projects, for example for trees. Compensation is too low, so please consider market prices. Everyone is now informed about the project and I ask you all *(appeal to the villagers)* to spread the information in your communities so that everyone has information about the project. You can also give your suggestions.	**Ilaha Ilyasova –** Compensation valuation methods will be disclosed to the PAP during the preparation of the RAP.
Please bear in mind that we only have new paved roads, so take this into account when preparing the traffic plan. Please check with the local community or executive representatives as we do not want any impact on our village roads.	**Ziba Guliyeva –** A traffic management plan will be agreed with the local traffic police prior to construction. The local authority will be informed.

Location: Hajigabul Region, Navahi Settlement
Date and time: September 30, 2024, 11:00
Participants: 24 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Ranjbar, Gizilburun, Pirsaat and Atbulag villages of Hajigabul Region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Cabrayil Ahmadov (Legal Advisor, Legal Division under the Human Resources and Services Department of Azerenerji JSC) informed the audience that the GoA, through Azerenerji, the State Enterprise for Electricity Generation and Transmission, has planned the grid readiness for the integration of 1 GW of solar and wind energy by 2027. The participants were informed that the project will be jointly financed by the GoA and the WB, with the GoA financing the construction of the 330 kV part of the 500/330/10 kV Navahi substation, the connection of the Bilasuvar and Banka solar power plants to the Navahi substation with 330 kV lines, and to the Absheron substation with a 500 kV line temporarily operating at 330 kV, while the WB will finance (i) the supply and installation of equipment for the 500 and 10 kV parts of the Navahi substation (2x 500 MVA); (ii) expansion of 500 kV bays at Absheron and Azerbaijan TPP substations; and (iii) expansion of 330 kV bays at Mingachevir HPP, Gobu PP and Alat substations.

Ilaha Ilyasova (Environmental and Social Safeguards Coordinator of the PIU, Azerenerji OSC) presented the ESF documents to the communities of the region and explained that the draft Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) documents describe the potential socio-environmental impacts and mitigation measures that have been prepared as part of the project and in accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards and the relevant legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The scope and main environmental and socio-economic aspects of the Scoping Report to be further developed in the ESIA were communicated to the people; the institutional framework within the RPF for handling all land acquisition and socio-economic impacts was presented to the communities along with the RAP activities to be further carried out by the consultant.

Ziba Guliyeva (Stakeholder Engagement Specialist of PIU, Azerenerji JSC) presented the SEP and LMP documents and mentioned the importance of stakeholder engagement in the implementation of infrastructure projects, described the stakeholder engagement process in the AZURE project, as well as the main provisions of labour management, including grievance redress mechanisms.

Communities were informed that these documents were now open to the public for questions and comments. It was also mentioned that the full electronic versions of the documents were available on the official Azerenerji website.

To facilitate the observation of the OHL alignment and the dissemination of information, the participants were provided with village-level maps showing the direction of the OHLs through their villages. The meeting continued with a question and answer session.

Questions	**Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)**
-We do not think we will have difficulties with this project; we wish the project will bring benefits to the people. We hope that the road infrastructure in our settlement will be improved. However, we are afraid that from the negative perspective of the panels and the stations, the rain will stop. -We want to be protected from radiation if such an effect is expected.	**Ilaha Ilyasova** - Only a Navahi substation will be built, no panels. No impact on rainfall is expected. Details will be provided during the disclosure of the ESIA document, which is currently being finalised. No radiation release is expected.
What will happen to agricultural land affected by the project?	**Ilaha Ilyasova** If the tower is erected on the land parcels, these land parcels will be leased for a long period of time and compensation will be paid based on market prices.
The station will be located at the old place related to the Azerenerji. -Maybe you can also open a sewing factory so that women can also be involved to any work outside as long as the station will only involve men work.	**Ilaha Ilyasova** – Why only men? Women can also be employed according to their capacities and skills. The operation of the new substation will require a variety of skills. In addition, during the construction phase, local women can also apply for work according to their skills and abilities, as the contractor will already be recommended to give preference to the local population. You can also contribute your agricultural products and food. Please be active in these processes as well. Consultations with local people will also be carried out throughout the project cycle.
We are concerned regarding poor road conditions.	**Ilaha Ilyasova**- There will be a traffic management plan and access roads will be agreed with the local authorities and the police.

Location: Shamakhi Region, Ovchulu village
Date and time: September 30, 2024, 16:00
Participants: 30 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Ovchulu village of Shamaki Region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Cabrayil Ahmadov (Legal Advisor, Legal Division under the Human Resources and Services Department of Azerenerji JSC) informed the audience that the GoA, through Azerenerji, the State Enterprise for Electricity Generation and Transmission, has planned the grid readiness for the integration of 1 GW of solar and wind energy by 2027. The participants were informed that the project will be jointly financed by the GoA and the WB, with the GoA financing the construction of the 330 kV part of the 500/330/10 kV Navahi substation, the connection of the Bilasuvar and Banka solar power plants to the Navahi substation with 330 kV lines, and to the Absheron substation with a 500 kV line temporarily operating at 330 kV, while the WB will finance (i) the supply and installation of equipment for the 500 and 10 kV parts of the Navahi substation (2x 500 MVA); (ii) expansion of 500 kV bays at Absheron and Azerbaijan TPP substations; and (iii) expansion of 330 kV bays at Mingachevir HPP, Gobu PP and Alat substations.

Ilaha Ilyasova (Environmental and Social Safeguards Coordinator of the PIU, Azerenerji OSC) presented the ESF documents to the communities of the region and explained that the draft Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) documents describe the potential socio-environmental impacts and mitigation measures that have been prepared as part of the project and in accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards and the relevant legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The scope and main environmental and socio-economic aspects of the Scoping Report to be further developed in the ESIA were communicated to the people; the institutional framework within the RPF for handling all land acquisition and socio-economic impacts was presented to the communities along with the RAP activities to be further carried out by the consultant.

Ziba Guliyeva (Stakeholder Engagement Specialist of PIU, Azerenerji JSC) presented the SEP and LMP documents and mentioned the importance of stakeholder engagement in the implementation of infrastructure projects, described the stakeholder engagement process in the AZURE project, as well as the main provisions of labour management, including grievance redress mechanisms.

Communities were informed that these documents were now open to the public for questions and comments. It was also mentioned that the full electronic versions of the documents were available on the official Azerenerji website.

To facilitate the observation of the OHL alignment and the dissemination of information, the participants were provided with village-level maps showing the direction of the OHLs through their villages. The meeting continued with a question and answer session.

Questions	**Responses (Azerenerji, PIU)**
-Private parcels and agricultural land are our concern. Will impacts on parcels be compensated? -We do not see the impact on farmland as negative, as long as it is compensated. We need our people to be employed. In some of the previous projects, technical specifications, such as the appropriate height of the towers, were not considered, which caused problems for the transport of agricultural equipment. Please ensure that this is taken into account this time. -Please avoid settlements as much as possible for safety reasons. Please do not adversely affect agricultural land. -One of the foreseen impacts is the inability to use agricultural equipment due to the very low height of the OHL. This is an issue, so please consider this in your project.	**Ilaha Ilyasova** - The main objective is not to cross the residential areas. But the towers that will be built in the plots will occupy minimum land and these small parts will be taken on the basis of easement. It is not a purchase of the land; it is a lease of the land parcels and the prices will be calculated best on the market value and mutual agreement with the land owners and compensation will be paid. It is currently in the planning stage. Relevant laws will be applied. In the next stage, the RAP will be prepared. PAPs will be identified, impacts assessed and negotiations held with them. Agreements will be reached with landowners.
-During the construction of OHL, please consider the height of agricultural equipment. In the past we have been faced with the destruction of land and no rehabilitation at the end of the project. Please ensure that this will not be a case in this project. -In case if you divide the parcel into some parts this will not be possible to use it because to heavy equipment destroys the access municipal roads and agricultural land. -The remaining land under the lines will also be affected if restrictions are required for undertaking agricultural activities.	**Ilaha Ilyasova-** According to national construction standards, the distance to nearby settlements should not be closer than 8-10m, and the height of the 330kV and 500kV transmission lines should be at least 8m to avoid radiation exposure. In fact, all project OHLs avoid settlement areas and the height in Azerbaijan is usually 8 or higher.
-Ensure that the area is restored to its pre-project condition.	**Ziba Guliyeva** -There will be a traffic management plan and the roads will be agreed with the local authorities and the police.
-We need to employ our local people in skilled and unskilled jobs. -It would be great if this project could provide long-term employment opportunities, such as the construction of a large power station and its subsequent operation.	**Ziba Guliyeva –** Contractors will be instructed to hire local people and specialists first.

Similar consultations with the disclosure of ESF documents were held at the meeting organised for the **Goyler Chol village *in Shamakhi region (30 September 2024; 15.00).***

The people were concerned on the height of the towers, mentioning that they would like to avoid the OHLs interfering the movement of the agricultural vehicles. They thought that 50-60% of their land parcels could be affected, and were interested how the compensation will be paid. The people asked whether they would receive compensation for the damaged agricultural land. They also demanded that the roads to be rehabilitated upon completion of works. They requested the local people to be hired by the project. Also, they were concerned that the access roads to private land parcels could be destroyed by project activities, and requested to take all impacts into consideration to not disturb community activities.

Appendix H. Stakeholder Engagement: Focus Group Consultatons

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (September 2024)

Region: Hajigabul

Villages: Navai settlement, Ranjbar, Qizilburun, Pirsaat, Atbulak villages

Meeting Location: Secondary School No. 2

Date: September 30, 2024

Time: 12:00

Number of Participants: 24 (8 women)

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its goals?	- We have heard - Azerenergy has already confirmed this - Obtaining renewable energy
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- Most of the local population is unemployed, so we are waiting for it as a source of work - Job opportunities are interesting as the living wage is low - The expectations of the residents of Navahi settlement are mainly the opening of workplaces and the construction of roads. - In contrast to the settlement, there is an industrial park, a poultry factory, and a brick factory in 4 villages of Hajigabul district.
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- The project will not have such an effect on us. - The only downside we've heard is that it prevents precipitations - We want to be protected from radiation if such an effect is expected.
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- Our lifestyle will not be negatively affected; we hope that there will be job opportunities - There is no noise because it is outside the village
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- No

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	- No. There are no big companies around. Please fill in the excavated land areas left over from previous project activities.
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	- The complaints of the village population mainly stem from the roads, and their fears are primarily related to the damage to roads during construction and operation. - Since the project is located outside the village, they hope that those risks will not occur.
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	There are concerns, it will only be temporary
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	- The sacred place is located on the side where the station will be installed. It is called "Marjan piri" - There is a martyr's spring behind Navai village school - There are mosques and cemeteries in the villages of Ranjbar, Atbulag and Gizilburun
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	- There are no recreational facilities or parks in these settlements and villages
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g., agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	- They engage in gardening and livestock farming here. They practice gardening and livestock farming in their backyards. Since the project area is located outside the village, there will be no impact on these activities.
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining	There are no wetlands or forests in these areas.

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	
		From the meeting with women: - The road in the settlement is very difficult (it is in a bad condition), it is impossible to cross, it is difficult to come and go - Other villages are better developed, the roads are good, there are no big problems there - There is no bus stop in Navahi settlement - Until now, there has been no enterprise to provide employment to the population - Maybe you can also open a sewing factory so that women can also be involved to any work outside as long as the station will only involve men work.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (September 2024)

Region: Shamakhi

Village: Chol Goylar

Meeting Location: Chol Goylar secondary school

Date: 30.09.2024

Time: 14:30

Number of Participants: 15 (6 women)

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its goals?	Detailed information about the project was given at the meeting.
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- Alternative energy will be positive, but what benefit will it bring to us? - Answer: Employment, road infrastructure, and electricity supply will be improved. - Most of the people here are participants of the Second Karabakh War. They need to be employed. Please provide us with jobs. - For example, we have water, but it's expensive. - Please ensure that people whose lands (500 sq.m) have been damaged receive compensation. - One respondent - Are you going to remove the electricity meters? Since this is renewable energy, why do we have to pay for it? Will that be removed? How will the electricity tariffs be determined?
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- Our concern is whether the lines will pass through the farmland? Answer: If the lines are likely to pass through your farmland, an agreement will be reached with you in accordance with state legislation, and compensation will be provided. - When any organization implements a project in the village, during the construction works, roads are dug up, and the machinery damages both the roads and the farmlands. Answer: This is a different project, and the outcome will be positive. If any unsatisfactory incident occurs, you can address it on-site or call the hotline.
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g.,	In previous years, other organizations have carelessly installed poles and laid pipelines, which has ruined the aesthetic appearance of the village.

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
	displacement, noise, visual changes)?	
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- The proposed project area overlaps with the villagers' parcels. It would be good if property rights are not violated.
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	- The access road to our parcels may be damaged.
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	- If the machinery does not pass through the village during the construction of the project, there will be no impact. Ensure electrical safety.
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	- We have no concerns. - There is only an elderly woman living alone in the village.
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	There is a cemetery in the village, a place with ancient stones and pots, and also there is a sacred place
<u>To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services</u>		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	- No
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g.,	- Fishing and grazing areas are not available. The population is engaged in dryland farming

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
	agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	- No wetlands or forest areas
		From the meeting with women: - In our village, both men and women suffer from unemployment. We are willing to accept any job, whether cleaning or cooking. - In this project, we expect to be provided with job opportunities. - We, women, also do men's work here. Among us, there are married women, widows, and those who take care of the sick. Our financial situation is low.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (September 2024)

Region: Shamakhi

Village: Ovchulu

Meeting Location: Ovchulu village Secondary School named B. Aliyev

Date: 30.09.2024

Time: 16:00

Number of Participants: 30 (14 women)

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its games?	- We are not aware of it. Detailed information about the project was provided during the meeting.
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- Job opportunities are expected by the public. - They want compensation for their parcels.
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- Usually, construction work causes damage to roads and agricultural fields due to the movement and activities of machinery. These roads and lands are not restored afterward. - We hope this project will implement restoration work after construction. - Vibrations are felt due to the movement and activity of machinery. It is recommended that machinery operate away from the village
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- Economic development, reduction of environmental impacts.
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- There is a concern that our parcels may fall into the project area.
6	How do you think the project will affect local	- Employment is expected.

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	- We hope there won't be any risks.
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	- In the village, there are disabled, sick, and martyr families who belong to vulnerable groups.
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	- No here. There is a cemetery and martyr springs by the roadside (considered sacred).
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	No
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g., agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	- There is no fishing. The community is primarily engaged in livestock farming and gardening (in their homestead areas).
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	No

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	Discussion with Women: • The primary concern for women is employment. • We have school children, and we want to know how their safety will be ensured. • We are afraid of the power lines. We are concerned about livestock and children's commute to school. • We need compensation for the affected areas. • Most women want their children to be employed, as they currently have to move to Baku and other places for work. **NOTE:** There is a cemetery near the asphalt road. There are martyr springs and alleys.	

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (September 2024)

Region: Agsu

Village: Gagali, Dashdamirbayli

Meeting Place: In the yard of the medical center

Date: 01.10.2024

Time: 11.30

Number of Participants: 43 (4 women)

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its goals?	We have heard, now you have given detailed information. Let's see the map, it will be clearer
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- It would be beneficial for the village population. There would be job opportunities. - Although I don't have an education, I have experience in electricity and am familiar with modern technologies. If there is a job, I will work with pleasure. (Response: You should be proactive and apply to the contractor managing the project for job opportunities).
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- The existing electrical lines in the village run low, making noise in windy and rainy weather. They are generally in a dilapidated condition, and no one is looking after them. Please convey this to Azerenergy. - There are places where the old electrical lines have been removed, but the concrete from the poles remains. This falls into the agricultural area, and we cannot utilize that land. - The movement and operation of the machinery are destroying the grazing areas. - The top layer of the soil is disturbed. - The grazing areas for the animals are limited.
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- The lights in our village go out frequently. The lines are damaged. Electrical appliances in the house burn out. - Will there be a similar situation in this project? This project involves electricity lines built with new technology, and in the future, electricity will be supplied to you from higher-quality energy sources. - There will likely be noise when it rains.

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- May fall into the project area - We are worried about our parcels
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	- Our main needs are met by the lands of the agricultural fields. We grow pomegranates, alfalfa, and grains in these fields. A few years ago, we sold a significant portion of our lands to another company due to necessity. We only have 30 acres of land left. If we lose these lands, our economic situation may worsen. - We propose that the electricity lines do not pass through the agricultural fields; instead, if they are drawn close to the main road, it would be better for us.
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	- We do not see any impact risks. The new cemetery of Dashdemirbeyli village is located where the line will cross. This worries us. - The issue of radiation also makes us think
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	- We have 13 families of martyrs. - There is 1 lonely woman living here. - The concern is that these families should be taken into account.
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	- In Gəgəli village, there is 1 martyrs' alley. They do not allow the construction of a mosque in the village, and we do not know the reason for this.
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	There are no areas for resting or walking.
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g.,	The main source of income for the population is agricultural land. Power lines can have negative effects when they fall close to these areas.

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	Since there are no forests, wetlands and lakes in these areas, we do not expect any negative effects
		From meeting women - The main concern of women is unemployment and low wages - 2 of the women we met live alone, and they mentioned that the wages they receive (300 AZN) are not enough for a living.

FOCUS GROUP Discussion (October 2024)

Region: Agsu

Village: Garagoyunlu, Ulguj

Meeting Place: Representative Office of the Executive Power of Aghsu District in the Administrative Territorial District of Qarqaoyunlu Village

Date: 01.10.2024

Time: 13:30

Number of Participants: 29 people (15 women)

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its goals?	1. No, we don't know. Accurate information was given at the meeting
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- Having job opportunities is definitely a positive aspect for us. - The main concern is that the contractors usually do not provide jobs for the local population. (Response: This project is different from others, and involving the local population in the workforce is essential.)
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- How will compensation be given when the project area falls on land (Answer: it was clarified at the meeting. Additional information will be given to the public on-site during the construction and implementation of the project) - It would be better to allocate land plots in other places instead of the affected land plots
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- It goes without saying that there is noise and dust when such projects are carried out. However, when talking about the project, you emphasized that the noise levels will not exceed the limits and the areas will be irrigated by special machines.
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- There is a possibility of passing through areas with non-residential lands
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural	- Agriculture and local businesses can develop as a result of the project. - During the project's team activities in the village, the demand for agricultural products will increase, which

#	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	resources (e.g., water or land)?	will also contribute to the development of local businesses.
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	- Serious attention must be paid to safety issues in this project.
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	- In Ulguj village, there are 2 physically disabled individuals and 2 martyr families. - In Qaraqoyunlu village, there lives a neglected single woman and 4 martyr families.
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	- There is 1 mosque and 1 cemetery in the village of Ulguc, and a place named "Ruined Town". - There is a historical monument called the Red and White Dome in the village of Garagoyunlu.
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	- No areas for hiking, fishing and family activities
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g., agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	- The local population is mainly engaged in agriculture and livestock farming in their own plots. Since the project area is far from villages, there will be no negative impact on our agriculture.
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	- No impacts
	In a meeting with women - We said our questions that concern us in the general meeting, we have no additional questions - our main desire is to have jobs.	

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (October 2024)

Region: Agsu

Village: Bico, Langabiz, Gashad

Meeting Place: Bico village secondary school named after Arif Jabiyev

Date: 01.10.2024

Time: 10:00

Number of Participants: 28 people (9 women)

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the Azure Project and its goals?	1. There may be opposite effects of this project. In this regard can we look at the conceptual layout of the project? Answer: You can take a look at the map. Just for your information, this project will be far from your private home, yard, or any of your properties. Detailed information on the design and construction will be shared with you well in advance during future meetings. İt is our first meeting. 2. Hope the project could be beneficial for people.
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	The opening of new jobs would be good
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- We hope that during the implementation of the AZURE project, unlike other projects, no damage will be done to the land areas and roads. - We are both happy and concerned about this project. Our main concern is the potential destruction of the roads used by schoolchildren and adults. In previous projects, the roads were left in poor condition after the work was completed. İt is my opinion I worked as a teacher for a long time in the village of Bijo, now I am retired. - You will see for yourself that this project is different from the others. You will be provided with detailed information, and there may be temporary roads as well.

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- We are concerned about the noise generated by the operation and movement of technical equipment. The noise levels should not exceed the permissible limits. - We are worried about potential forced displacement. The project does not involve the relocation of residents. If there are concerns related to land, then you will have relevant proposals.
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- Our parcels might fall under the electric lines. - Our main request is that the lines do not pass through the village.
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	You mentioned that workers will be hired. Who is the contractor for this project? No contractor hires local people. Give people the right information, so their expectations are realistic. Response: Contractors will be instructed to hire local people, and this will be monitored.
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	With the laying of high voltage lines, human health will be impacts. I am an electrician by trade, so I am raising this issue. All this should be taken into account. OHL lines will be radiant, as well as the effect of electricity. (Answer. The new power lines are different from the old ones. These lines are crossing out of settlements and modern technologies will be used)
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	No concern
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	- Rashidbulag ancient cemetery in Bijo - We also have a cemetery on the mountain
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the	no special areas for hiking, fishing and family activities

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
	project impact these activities?	
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g., agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	Hope there will be no negative effects
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	No
		In a meeting with women: - Our main concern is that the power lines do not pass through the center of the village.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (October 2024)

Region: Goychay, Ismayilli

Village: Garamaryam and Garabaggal villages (Goychay), Gubakhalili (İsmayilli)

Meeting Place: Election division

Date: 01.10.2024

Time: 15.00

Number of Participants: 32 (9 women)

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its goals?	- Thank you very much for providing information about the project. - There is a proverb that says: "I have read a lot, but I didn't understand this." (Response: We gave you initial information, please take a look at the map.)
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- Garabaqqal and Garamaryam villages are large and developed villages of Göyçay. I believe that with the implementation of this project, the well-being of the population will improve further. - The benefit for our people is the job opportunities. - It would be good if local residents are employed.
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- In other projects, people's land was damaged and not restored afterward. For example, when Azeravtoyol constructed the Baku-Shamakhi-Yevlakh road, agreements were signed with several village representatives, but the terms were not followed. To this day, those individuals don't know whom to address. One of these individuals is currently leasing land for farming. - Contractor companies do not follow the rules and regulations. - Landowners should be compensated for the pole locations. This is my personal opinion.
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- During the implementation of the project, large areas are used for placing machinery and equipment, and those areas get damaged. - After the work is completed, the land is not leveled. This affects both the soil layer and the visual appearance.
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could	Our parcels fall in this area

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
	be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	- Positive effects on local businesses are expected. - If the demand for the product increases, then local businesses will develop.
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	- Safety must be strictly followed.
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	- During the project, special attention should be paid to the vulnerable group.
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	- There is a graveyard.
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	- There are almond and walnut orchards, the project site may be close to them.
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g., agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	No
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for	No

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
	sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	
	From the meeting with women: - If there are job opportunities, we women and our children could be involved. - We bought land and planted pomegranate trees. What will happen if the electric lines pass through that area now? - Generally, it would be better if the lines pass far from the village.	

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (October 2024)

Region: Goychay

Village: Arabjabirli, Mirzahuseynli

Meeting Place: Arabjabirli secondary school

Date: 01.10.2024

Time: 16.30

Number of Participants: 27 (6 women)

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its goals?	- You provided information; we understood. - Please show us on the map where this project is located.
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- New jobs are opening - Power supply improves
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- Entrance and exit roads to the villages should not be destroyed - The project area will most likely fall into the part of the population's parcels. Then how will people work there
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- Such projects generate dust and noise. - When providing information, you mentioned that noise regulations would be adhered to and that water would be sprinkled on the roads with special machines. It would be good if that happens.
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- The movement of machinery and heavy vehicles during the project's development damages the roads
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	- Local businesses can develop. - The demand for agricultural products may increase.
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities	- The number of heavy machinery and vehicles passing through the village area will increase. - There will be air pollution and noise.

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
	(e.g., during construction or operation)?	
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	- Depending on weather conditions, it can be difficult to pass through destroyed roads - Sick and elderly people should be more careful
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	- There is a Martyr's Spring on the roadside.
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	- For recreation, we use the gardens in our yard. - The project area is outside
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g., agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	No
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	No
	From a meeting with women: Our main desire is to have jobs. As soon as we reach the age of 65, they send us to retirement and we can no longer find work. Our financial situation is low.	

FOCUS GROUP DİSCUSSİON (October, 2024)

Region: Agdash region

Village: Yukhari Aghcayazi, Goshagovag, Arabojaghi, Hushun

Meeting place: Yukhari Agcayazi village club

Date: 02.10.2024

Time: 16.00

Number of participants: 24 people (5 women)

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its goals?	- We have no information about the project. - Detailed information was given in this meeting
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- How will compensation be provided for the parts of the project that fall on the residents' lands, and in what form will it be paid? - During other projects, they compensated our 5-year-old tree, only 5.60 AZN. This is not correct.
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- The population in the villages is mainly engaged in livestock farming, gardening, and crop cultivation. The areas where the lines pass are agricultural fields and pastures. - During the implementation of the project, access for the population to their agricultural fields and the pastures for livestock may become difficult. It would be better to construct roads to those areas. - Currently, a new asphalt covering has been laid on the village roads. Additionally, the bridges in the village are old and have low load-bearing capacity. The village roads should not be used by high-tonnage vehicles. Alternative routes should be created around the village for those vehicles, and this should be coordinated with the local population.
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- The project area is located far from the villages, so there will be no noise and no displacement.

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- The electric lines cross agricultural fields and grazing lands.
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	- The areas crossed by electric lines may only affect the lands of the population. There may be soil layer disturbances and failure to restore the land. - There are adjacent lands of the population and the state. The population recommends that the electric lines be routed through state lands. (Response: The state is also interested in having the lines pass through its own lands, but currently, this is not possible, so they will pass through the mentioned area.)
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	- There is anxiety. - Generally, it would be better if the power lines pass through the foot of the mountain, away from the villages.
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	- The vulnerable group should be given attention and help during the project
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	- There is a historical monument in the area - an old cemetery (Hushun village)
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	- There are no places for walking, fishing and family events in the villages.
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g.,	- Agriculture and grazing areas

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
	agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	- There are no forests or wetlands in the areas where the power lines pass
	From a meeting with women: - When you gave information about the project, you said that there would be waste during the implementation of the project. Will it affect health? - It is probably advisable to collect chemicals separately. (Answer: you will be informed about this in detail, but you should be careful and proactive)	

FOCUS GROUP DİSCUSSİON (October 2024)

Region: Yevlakh District

Villages: Arash, Akhsham, Gulovsha

Meeting Place: Arash village secondary school

Date: October 2, 2024

Time: 17:30

Number of Participants: 21

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its goals?	- It's a state project, it's good
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- It would be good for us to have jobs. - Mainly local people should be given jobs
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- If our lands fall within the project area, how will compensation be provided - If the poles are placed in the neighbor's yard but the power lines pass through my land, who will be considered as affected and how will compensation be determined?
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- You mentioned that there will be control over dust and noise. - We are villagers and are used to dust and dirt, but it would be better for our families if measures are taken to prevent it.
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- The project might pass through our parcels.
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	- It can be beneficial for local businesses and agriculture. - During the project, temporary camps set up in the area may require a workforce. In any case, it would be better to involve the local community rather than bringing workers from the city or other villages.

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	- We want safety rules to be observed
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	- The disabled, families of martyrs and the elderly should be monitored during the project.
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	No
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	- We don't have special places too rest.
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g., agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	- Xeyir
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	- No

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (October, 2024)

Region: Yevlakh District

Villages: Havarlı, Hajısəlli, Salahlı

Meeting Place: Havarlı Municipality

Date: October 2, 2024

Time: 14:00

Number of Participants: 20 (5 women)

#	QUESTİON	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its goals?	- Thank you for your information about the project
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- Both job opportunities and energy supply are very important for us
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- The main thing is that it should not affect personal lands and parcels. - The Ministry of Emergency Situations does not allow agricultural activities in areas where poles are located (due to the expansion and lowering of electrical lines) during hot weather. - Compensation has not been provided to farmers in areas where the existing electric poles are located. (These issues will be agreed upon in accordance with the Easement document) - How will it be in this project? Will compensation and subsidies be provided? - Is there a possibility of providing land in another area if the landowner refuses cash compensation?
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- The project is a great initiative. - It will be thoroughly positive. - If precautionary measures are taken, the effects of dust and noise will be minimal. - If consultations are held with the population during the construction of the project and respect is shown to the people, it will have positive effects.
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- The project may have an impact only on the lands where agricultural fields are located - The main condition will be to control the height of the trees

#	QUESTİON	ANSWERS
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	- It could have a positive impact on local businesses. There may be a demand for the population's products. - On the other hand, if the poles of the electric lines fall on our agricultural lands, it will occupy a part of that area, meaning the farmer will not be able to use it. - Villagers mainly grow grain and alfalfa. Our livelihood is from this field.
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	- We experienced a number of difficulties during the implementation of other projects. - You say this is a different project. We would like safety to be strictly observed
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	- We think there will be no difficulties.
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	- There are cemeteries in our villages
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	No
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g., agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	- The population is primarily engaged in agriculture and livestock farming. Any impact on agricultural land or grazing areas could significantly affect the livelihoods and living conditions of the people living there.
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	- No forests or wetlands
	During a meeting with women - Our wages are very low, it is difficult to make a living. We cannot pay utility bills on time. - It is true that the supply (water, gas) is uninterrupted, but there are those among us who did not pay last year.	

FOCUS GROUP MEETING (October, 2024)

District: Yevlakh

Village: Tanrıgulular, Boshchali, Huruushagi

Meeting place: Representation of Tanrıgulular village administrative area

Date: 02.10.2024

Time: 12.30

Number of participants: 29 people (6 women)

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its goals?	- Thank you for your information. - We have questions. These are related to village roads and livelihood (Ask your questions, we will answer them)
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- There is no hospital in the village, I have a sick mother at home. The ambulance does not arrive in time. - Opening a workplace in the village - Providing compensation
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- Poles may fall on the territory of Tanrıgulular village - The project area may fall under agricultural fields - Poles of power lines fall into grass fields. These areas are usually neglected and not cleaned. Those parts of the land are overtaken by reeds and thorny trees. Most of the time, various (unnecessary) seeds are spread by wind in these areas. - Raspberry tree seeds fall on cultivated fields and are spread by wind, causing damage to grain fields.
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- After completing work in the agricultural fields, the machinery often remains on-site for a long time. - We request detailed information in advance about the parts of the project that will affect our areas.
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- We don't want power lines to cross our private lands
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	- It would be great if there were job opportunities; we would gladly work. - Even if we don't have education, we will work as laborers.

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	- Do not destroy our roads during the project period - After the work is done, the area should be restored
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	- We have families of veterans and martyrs - They need special attention
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	- No
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	- Unfortunately, aside from our personal yards, we don't have any parks or designated places to relax.
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g., agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	- No
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	- We hope the project will not have adverse effects.
	From a meeting with women: - We have no work. Let's say that we are illiterate, we are old, but our young children do not find jobs either. - We are dissatisfied with the Internet line; they raise the prices. - I think that if the power lines pass over my house in this project, maybe they will give me monetary compensation.	

FOCUS GROUP DİSCUSSİON (October, 2024)

District: Mingachevir city

Meeting place: Mingachevir Regional Electricity Network

Date: 02.10.2024

Time: 10.30

Number of participants: 45 (12 women)

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
1	What do you know about the AZURE project and its goals?	- We know about the project. The goal of the project is to integrate the use of variable renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's energy network.
2	How do you think this project can benefit your community in terms of job creation, energy access, or infrastructure?	- The residents of the villages affected by the project should be given a proper explanation (by the municipality). - Objects are being built in the protected zones of the project's lines, areas are being occupied, and fences are being erected. - Parcels are being rented to other individuals, but they are not documented. We don't know to whom to address the application. - In what form will compensations be provided to the residents? İt should be explained in detail.
3	Do you have any concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, such as on land, water, or local wildlife?	- The residents' land plots are located under the lines. When people harvest their crops in those areas, there may be effects caused by electricity. - If the protective zones are observed during the construction of the line, these consequences will not occur.
4	What social impacts (positive or negative) do you think this project might have on you (e.g., displacement, noise, visual changes)?	- The construction of the lines will require additional workers not only from Mingachevir city but also from other villages. Workers will be needed for repair work and inspections during the operational period of the lines. - Applications are being submitted for the installation of electricity lines in the districts. - There are applications for specialties in energy, but there are currently no vacancies for these specialties. - There are many applications in the labor category - Dust and noise will arise during the movement of heavy machinery.

#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
5	Are there any private or communal lands that could be affected by the project's infrastructure development?	- Contractor companies do not leave access roads after constructing the lines. The lack of access roads to the lines creates difficulties. - During inspections of the electricity lines, there is no connection between the poles. İt results in time loss as inspections may occur while crossing several villages, leading to delays in the work.
6	How do you think the project will affect local businesses, agriculture, or access to natural resources (e.g., water or land)?	- Our parcels may fall into that area. - How much compensation will be provided for our lands that fall into the project area?
7	Are there any safety or health risks you foresee as a result of the project's activities (e.g., during construction or operation)?	- Risks are always present. It is essential to strictly adhere to safety regulations as a result of the project's development
8	How should the project address potential health and safety risks for vulnerable groups like children and the elderly?	- There are many martyr families belonging to vulnerable groups. It would be beneficial to involve them in employment opportunities
9	Are there any important cultural or heritage sites that could be affected by the project?	- There is 1 cemetery, it may be near a power line.
To link the focus group discussions (FGDs) to ecosystem services		
1	Do you use the natural environment for recreational activities, like hiking, fishing, or family gatherings? How might the project impact these activities?	- Of course, we use nature for recreation. In our city, we have various places for this purpose. We believe that the project will not negatively impact these activities.
2	Are there any specific natural resources in the area that you rely on for your livelihood (e.g., agriculture, fishing, grazing)?	- In Mingachevir, the local people rely primarily on agriculture and livestock farming for their livelihood. The fertile land in the region is suitable for growing a variety of crops, including grains and vegetables. Additionally, livestock farming is common, providing meat, milk, and other animal products. The presence of the Kura River also offers opportunities

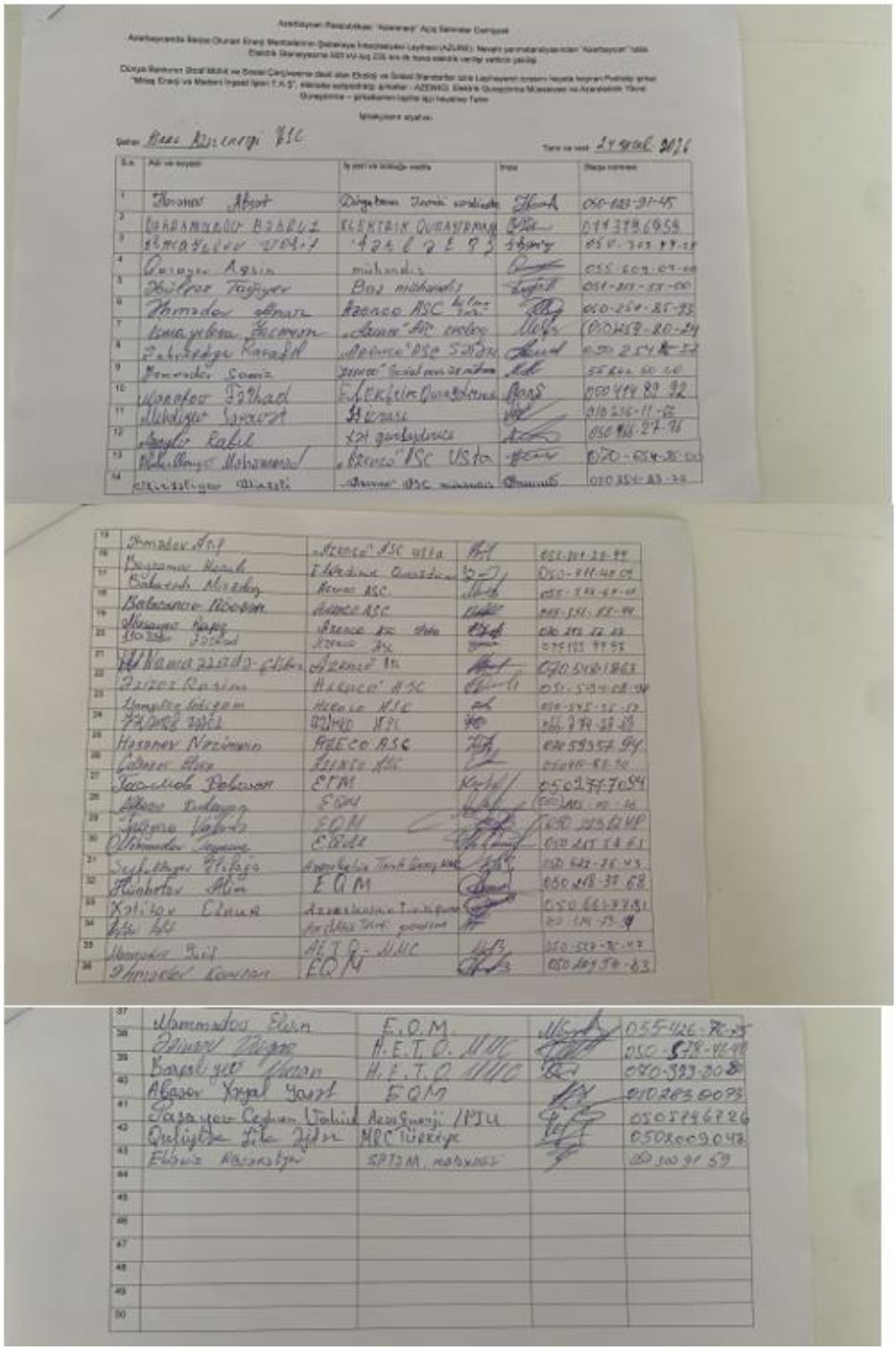
#	QUESTİONS	ANSWERS
		for fishing, although agriculture and animal husbandry are the main sources of income for most residents.
3	Do you think the project might affect biodiversity or habitats that are crucial for sustaining local species (e.g., forests, wetlands)?	- We hope no.
	During the meeting with women: - It is possible that the new electricity lines may cross over someone's house, which is undesirable. - It is difficult for women to find jobs. For example, my daughter graduated from university but cannot find a job. - I have worked here for 42 years. They abolished the technical staff position and laid me off. I am currently an employee of DOST MMC. - The Mingachevir Regional Electric Network does not hire women. They say this is a man's job. - We are given jobs with documentation. We accept that, as long as there is work.	

APPENDIX I. TRAINING REPORT

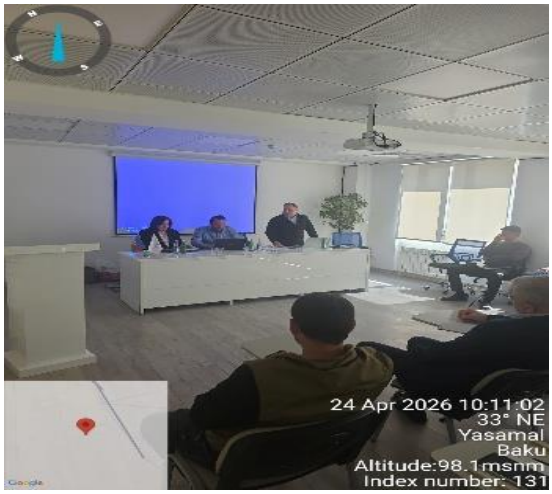
The training agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
10:00-10:30	Introduction Health, Safety, Environment Working at Height	Ilaha Ilyasova Eldeniz Nazaraliyev Orkhan Adigozelov
10:30-11:30	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity	Ilaha Ilyasova
11:30-11:45	Break	
11:45-12:15	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity (continued)	Ilaha Ilyasova
12:15-13:00	-Land entry and exit protocols -Compensation protocols -RAP GRM	Ceyhun Pashayev
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	Gender-based Violence Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment	Shams Mustafayeva
15:30-15:45	Break	
15:45-16:45	-Incident reporting -Chance find procedures -Community GRM -Worker GRM	Ziba Guliyeva
16:45-17:00	Question and answer Closing	All participants.

The attendance sheet of training participants



Photos from Training session[6]



[6] Participants were informed about photo taking and their consent obtained beforehand.

APPENDIX J. Public Consultations on disclosure of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP)

for the Project of:

Construction of 500 kV, 235 km overhead power transmission line from "Azerbaijan Thermal Power Plant" (Mingachevir city) to 500/330/10 kV "Navahi" substation (Hajugabul region)

(Conducted with stakeholder representatives from Hajigabul, Shamakhi, Aghsu, Ismayilli, Goychay, Aghdash, Yevlakh regions and Mingachevir town of Azerbaijan, April 27 – May 01 2026)

Background:

As part of the social safeguards requirements prior to the commencement of works, public consultations (PC) for the RAP disclosure were held in the Hajigabul, Shamakhi, Aghsu, Ismayilli, Goychay, Aghdash, Yevlakh regions and Mingachevir town of Azerbaijan.

The Objectives and Purposes of the Public Consultations:

- Providing information on the scale of the anticipated permanent and temporary social impacts of the project;
- Presenting AZURE Project Resettlement Action Plan that describe potential social impacts of the Project activities
- as well as corresponding mitigations and compensations;
- Announcement and explanation of the cut-off date for the project;
- Introduction of the RAP related Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM);
- Responding questions related to the RAP and anticipated social impacts of the project; and
- Receiving comments and feedback to be incorporated into the final version of the Resettlement Action Plan.

Methodology

Digital copy of the Resettlement Action Plan has been posted on the official websites of Azerenerji JSC. In addition, the official website of Azerenerji JSC also contains an additional note indicating that any interested party can use the organization's official contact details (telephone, e-mail and postal addresses) to send further feedback and suggestions.

The AZURE Project Public Consultations were organized with the support of the Local Executive Powers of the impacted Regions, municipalities as well as Regional Electricity Network Offices of Azerenerji (REN), who informed their residents about the event as part of the outreach activities. People were informed about the upcoming consultations to present the first draft of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), which had been drafted by a specialized consulting company. The grievance redress mechanism will also be posted on the above mentioned websites for the guidance of stakeholders and the general public prior to the commencement of the actual works.

A special brochure providing a brief summary on the project, it's technical details, relevant cut-off date, GRM and the details of the appointed contact person for the grievances was

demonstrated during the meeting and hardcopies were distributed to all participants (see Annex 1 - Brochure).

Where possible, the RAP presentation was displayed on a large screen using projector. In case of the lack of such opportunity, relevant details provided only verbally using the brochure as a visual aid.

Relevant Participants List had been prepared and printed out. All the participants were requested to fill their names, surnames, companies/organizations (in case if a participant is representing a company, public organization or an NGO), the village or district they were representing, contact details and signatures in the Participants List (see Annex 3 – Participants list).

Photos of the event were taken during the meetings with the consent of the participants (see Annex 2 – Photos).

Location: Mingachevir Regional Electrical Network (RENO)

Date and time: April 27, 2026, 15:00 PM

Participants: 36 people attended including:

- Representatives of the Regional Mass Media and NGOs;
- Representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources;
- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Representatives from Regional Power Network, Regional Gas Supply Department, Water and Melioration Office.

Full list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

Minutes of Meeting

The meeting was opened by Yusif Gayibov, who introduced the project team and provided general information on the Project. He outlined the overall scope and complexity of the works, as well as the current stage of project development and the planned construction activities. Information was also provided on the Contractor and Subcontractors involved in the Project.

Yusif Gayibov further presented an overview of the expected land impacts and explained the segmentation of the Project alignment across the affected areas, including the areas covered and Mingachevir. In addition, he briefly described the main approach adopted for the preparation of the Resettlement Action Plan, in line with applicable requirements.

This was followed by a presentation by Jeyhun Pashayev, who provided general information on the overhead transmission line routes to be constructed. He also introduced the RAP disclosure process, including the key steps and purpose of sharing information with affected communities.

Questions and Answers

Name	Position	Question	Respond
Farman Nabiyev	Mingachevir, representing teachers association NGO	It was noted that in projects of this nature, various questions may arise, particularly regarding land valuation. What should have affected persons do if there are differences in assessed land values? Apart from private lands, there are also state-owned lands affected by the Project. I would like to refer to a recent water supply project implemented by Azersu, where no proper restoration was carried out after the works, and the lands and roads remained disturbed.	YG: The valuation of affected assets was carried out by an independent company, "Real Price." All land plots were assessed at market value, based on notarized land sale transactions over the past two years. Therefore, the compensation rates reflect prevailing market prices. II: The Supervision Engineer will oversee the construction works, including ensuring that the Contractor properly restores and hands over the site upon completion. In addition, a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) has been established for the community and will be communicated to affected persons, allowing them to raise any concerns related to health and safety issues arising from Project implementation.
Inqlab Shirinli	Club 22 (local TV channel) – media-founder	State Agency of Automobile Roads, Azerenerji, and Azersu are implementing numerous projects in Karabakh, including in recently liberated regions. However, as I understand, land reforms have not yet been fully completed in these areas, and land balances for state infrastructure are not clearly defined. In this context, how will you	YG: Thank you for raising this important issue. At this stage, we are not in a position to provide a detailed response, as the issue falls beyond the scope of the current Project. Besides, the Project's overhead transmission line alignment does not passes through the Karabakh region.

		address similar issues related to impacted land in the Karabakh region, particularly where municipal lands and ownership are not yet clearly established? How do you plan to handle land acquisition in such cases? I understand that, during the implementation of infrastructure projects, different route options are typically considered in order to select the alignment with the least impact. Have you considered alternative alignments for this Project to minimise potential impacts?	YG. During the route selection process, different alignment options were considered, taking into account the specific requirements of the OHL and its right-of-way. The alignment was selected based on satellite imagery and field considerations to minimise impacts on private lands and natural resources. In particular, the alignment was designed to avoid sensitive areas such as the Turyanchay Sanctuary, and adjustments were made in sections near the Varvara reservoir to reduce potential impacts.
Pashayeva Ulkar	Local MENR	I understand that, during the implementation of infrastructure projects, different route options are typically considered in order to select the alignment with the least impact. Have you considered alternative alignments for this Project to minimise potential impacts? Was the option of electricity transmission via an undersea route considered during the Project design??	YG. During the route selection process, different alignment options were considered, taking into account the specific requirements of the OHL and its right-of-way. The alignment was selected based on satellite imagery and field considerations to minimise impacts on private lands and natural resources. In particular, the alignment was designed to avoid sensitive areas such as the Turyanchay Sanctuary, and adjustments were made in sections near the Varvara reservoir to reduce potential impacts. YG. Yes, these undersea cable project relates to Green Corridor among Black Sea Coast countries where Azerbaijan also takes part and transmission cables will be laid down under the Black Sea.

Zahid Qasimli	Head of municipality	Will different compensation rates apply to municipal lands?	YG. Compensation rates vary depending on land category and ownership status. As you can see, unit prices also differ by region. In addition, factors such as location and proximity to local infrastructure are taken into account. Based on these criteria, a market-based value is determined for each individual land plot.
Farid Malikov	MENR	What about biodiversity? Have you considered biodiversity?	Various biodiversity studies were conducted as part of the Project preparation. Based on the findings, bird diverters will be installed along approximately 70 km of the transmission line to mitigate impacts on birds.

ANNEX 1 – BROCHURE

AzərEnerji® AZURE WORLD BANK GROUP Energy & Extractives

Bərpa olunan enerji mənbələrinin şəbəkəyə inteqrasiyası Layihəsi

Nəvahi yarımstansiyasından "Azərbaycan" İstilik Elektrik Stansiyasına 500 kV-luq 235 km-lik hava elektrik verilişi xəttinin çəkilişi

AZURE (Azerbaijan: Renewable Energy Integration) layihəsi, Azərbaycanda bərpa olunan enerji mənbələrinin (BOEM) - xüsusilə günəş və külək stansiyalarının - ölkənin enerji şəbəkəsinə effektiv inteqrasiyasını təmin etmək üçün ötürücü şəbəkəni gücləndirən strateji bir layihədir. Dünya Bankının dəstəyi ilə həyata keçirilən bu layihə, "AzərEnerji" tərəfindən icra olunur.

Layihənin texniki parametrləri

- Xəttin uzunluğu – 235 km
- Xəttin gərginliyi – 500 kilovolt
- Mühafizə zolağının eni – 90 metr
- Quraşdırılacaq dayaqların sayı – 714
- Bir dayağın ortalam zəbt etdiyi sahə - təxminən 230 m^2
- Bir dayağın ortalama hündürlüyü – təxminən 32.4 metr
- Bir dayağın ortalama eni – təxminən 25.6 metr
- Tikintinin başlama tarixi: İyun 2026
- Tikintinin bitmə tarixi: Yanvar 2028
- Xəttin keçdiyi rayonlar və şəhərlər: Mingəçevir, Yevlax, Ağdaş, Ağsu, Göyçay, İsmayıllı, Şamaxı, Hacıqabul

Kompensasiyalar

- Sahədəki Obyektlərin təsbiti və siyahıya alınması peşəkar qiymətləndirici tərəfindən həyata keçirilib (2025-ci ilin Avqust-Noyabr ayları);
- Bu qiymətləndirmə əsasında vətəndaşlara və sahibkarlara dəyə biləcək zərərlərin şəffaf və ədalətli kompensasiyasını nəzərdə tutan Kompensasiyaların Ödənilməsi Planı hazırlanıb.

Şikayət və müraciətlərə baxılması

- Üç mərhələli şikayət və müraciətlərə baxılması mexanizmi işlək vəziyyətə gətirilmişdir;
- Aidiyyəti qurumların nümayəndələrindən ibarət Şikayətlərə Baxılması Komitəsi yaradılmışdır;
- Şikayət və müraciətlərlə bağlı AzərEnerji ASC-nin 186 qaynar xətti daim aktivdir;
- Sırf layihə ilə bağlı şikayət və müraciətlərin qəbulu üçün əlaqədar şəxs təyin olunmuçdur;

Son hüquqmüəyyənedici tarix

Layihənin təsirinə məruz qalan şəxslərin və onların təsirə məruz qalan əmlaklarının (torpaq və s.) müəyyən edilməsinin ən son tarixidir. Həmin tarixdən **sonra** həmin əraziləri zəbt edən, həmin ərazilərdə əkin əkən və ya hansı bir tikili inşa edən şəxslərə heç bir kompensasiya ödənilmir.

Bizim layihənin son hüquqmüəyyənedici tarixi!!!

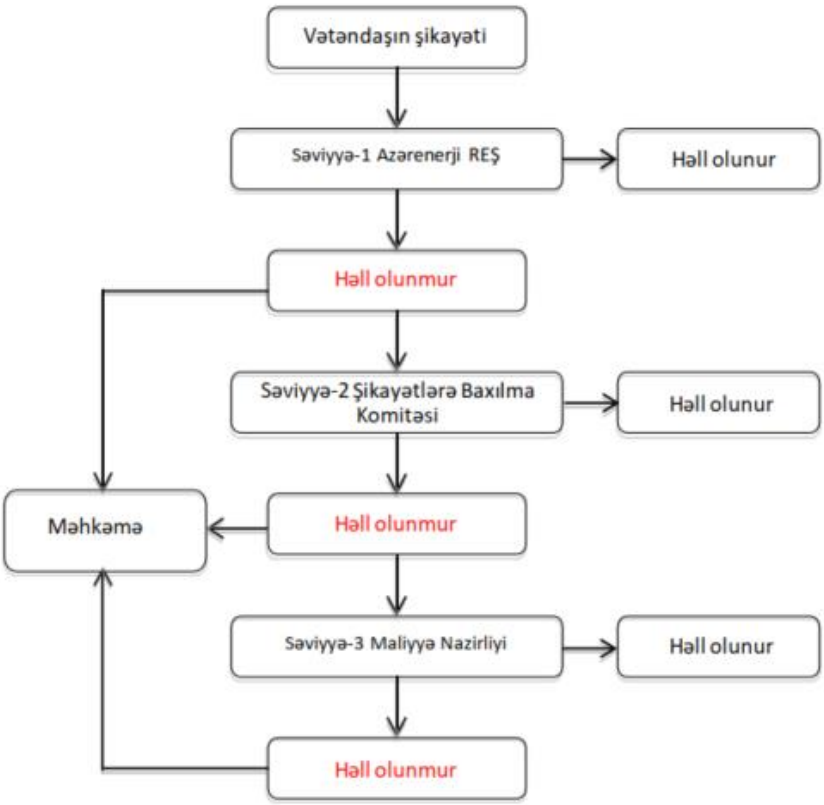
15 May 2026

Layihə ilə bağlı şikayət və təkliflrə baxılması üzrə əlaqədar şəxs:

Şəhriyar Məmmədov
Mob.: +994 10 327 28 19
e-mail: Shahriyar.Mammadov@azerenerji.gov.az

Grievance Redress Mechanism

Şikayət və Müraciətlərə Baxılma Mexanizmi



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Şəhriyar Məmmədov

Mob.: +994 10 327 28 19

e-mail: Shahriyar.Mammadov@azerenerji.gov.az

AzərEnerjinin Qaynar xətti: 186 (24/7)

e-mail: info@azerenerji.gov.az

Location: Yevlakh region Executive Power Office

Date and time: April 28, 2026, 11:00 AM

Participants: 31 people attended including:

- Project affected people from Arash, Salahli, Havarli, Arabbasra and Tanrigulular villages of Yevlakh region;
- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Representatives from Regional Power Network, Regional Gas Supply Department, Water and Melioration Office.

Full list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

Minutes of Meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Allahverdi Guliyev, Sector Manager of Yevlakh region Executive Power Office, who provided an overview of the Project, highlighting its importance and the areas traversed by the OHLs alignment.

This was followed by a speech of Yusif Gayibov, who provided further details on the Project, including its current stage of development and the planned construction activities. He also shared information on the Contractor and Subcontractors involved in the implementation of the Project.

Yusif Gayibov additionally outlined key aspects related to the Project and its implementation context.

Jeyhun Pashayev then delivered a presentation covering the overhead transmission line routes to be constructed. He also informed participants about the meetings held in the project-affected villages during the preparation of the Resettlement Action Plan. Information was provided on the engagement of the valuation company “Real Price,” responsible for conducting the assessment of affected properties.

Finally, Jeyhun Pashayev introduced the RAP disclosure process, including its purpose and the approach to sharing information with affected communities.

Questions and Answers

Name	Position	Question	Respond
Khalid Ahmadov	Senior Architector, Yevlakh Region	As I understand, based on the information provided, land use activities may be restricted after May 15, 2026. In this case, how will compensation be assessed for crops or agricultural activities that affected persons were planning but are unable to undertake due to this restriction?	YG: Potential impacts on crops and cultivation have already been assessed. Affected persons will be given the opportunity to harvest their crops prior to the commencement of construction works. In cases where works need to start urgently, compensation will be provided in accordance with the established procedures.
		In other projects, alignments have been adjusted to avoid impacts on agricultural lands, such as those under the AZETTO farm. If I am not mistaken, will a similar approach be applied in this Project—i.e., will the alignment be shifted to avoid impacts on the farm area?	YG: Avoiding impacts to the extent possible has been a key objective of the Project from the outset. Alignment adjustments may be considered, where feasible, to minimise impacts.
Mammadaliyev Alkhas	Salahli villager	I appreciate the Project and understand that it has a social dimension. However, I do not consider the compensation approach to be sufficient. For example, the additional payment of 100 manat does not adequately compensate for the impact on my land plot. As farmers, our livelihoods depend on this land. If the land is used for several months, I am concerned that the compensation for temporary impacts is not adequate. I would also like to note that although government subsidies for wheat cultivation have been announced, I have not personally received	AG: As mentioned PIU Director, calculated compensation amounts reflects fair market value of affected land parcels. Besides, additional allowances, like 20 % and 10% cumulative impact were also considered. YG: Temporary impact will be compensated by the Contractor

		any support. Overall, I am not satisfied with the calculated compensation for temporary land use.	
Mammadov Parviz	Arash village	Azerenerji has previously carried out excavation works in my area under the transmission line, which caused disturbance to my land. Therefore, I am concerned that similar issues may arise under this Project.	YG. Azerenerji will compensate any damage to the crop during operation of OHL.

ANNEX 1 – BROCHURE

AzərEnerji® AZURE WORLD BANK GROUP Energy & Extractives

Bərpa olunan enerji mənbələrinin şəbəkəyə inteqrasiyası Layihəsi

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Layihənin texniki parametrləri

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Kompensasiyalar

- Sahədəki Obyektlərin təsbiti və siyahıya alınması peşəkar qiymətləndirici tərəfindən həyata keçirilib (2025-ci ilin Avqust-Noyabr ayları);
- Bu qiymətləndirmə əsasında vətəndaşlara və sahibkarlara dəyə biləcək zərərlərin şəffaf və ədalətli kompensasiyasını nəzərdə tutan Kompensasiyaların Ödənilməsi Planı hazırlanıb.

Şikayət və müraciətlərə baxılması

- Üç mərhələli şikayət və müraciətlərə baxılması mexanizmi işlək vəziyyətə gətirilmişdir;
- Aidiyyəti qurumların nümayəndələrindən ibarət Şikayətlərə Baxılması Komitəsi yaradılmışdır;
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- Sırf layihə ilə bağlı şikayət və müraciətlərin qəbulu üçün əlaqədar şəxs təyin olunmuçdur;

Son hüquqmüəyyənedici tarix

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Bizim layihənin son hüquqmüəyyənedici tarixi!!!

15 May 2026

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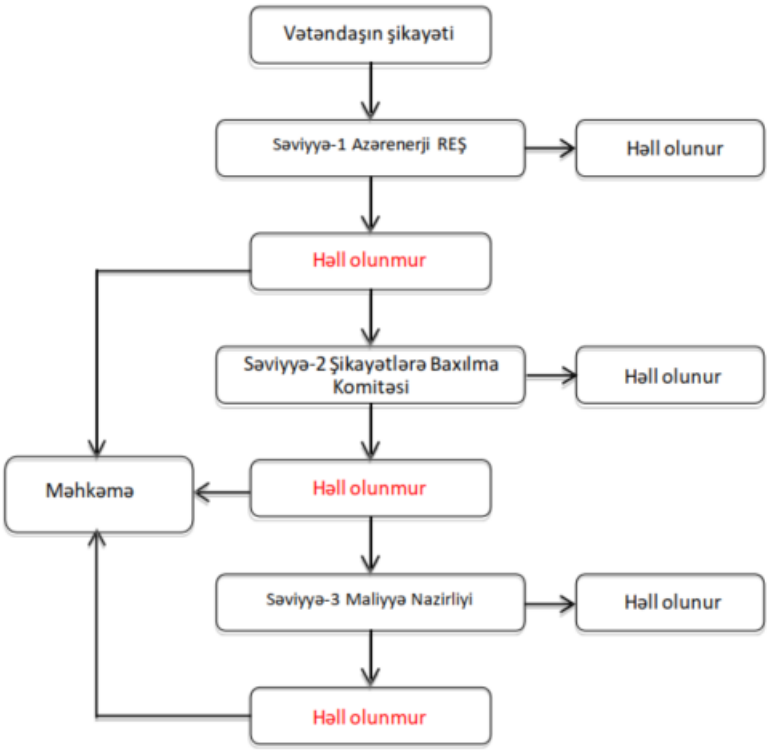
e-mail: Shahriyar.Mammadov@azerenerji.gov.az

Grievance Redress Mechanism

Şikayət və Müraciətlərə Baxılma Mexanizmi



Layihə ilə bağlı şikayət və təkliflrə baxılması üzrə əlaqədar şəxs:

Şəhriyar Məmmədov

Mob.: +994 10 327 28 19

e-mail: Shahriyar.Mammadov@azerenerji.gov.az

AzərEnerjinin Qaynar xətti: 186 (24/7)

e-mail: info@azerenerji.gov.az

Location: Aghdash Region Executive Power Office

Date and time: April 28, 2026, 03:00 PM

Participants: 29 people attended including:

- Project affected people from Agdash Region as well as from Arabojaghi, Dahnakhalil, Yukhari Aghjayazi, Arab, Hushun, Shakli and Goshagovag villages;
- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Representatives from Regional Power Network, Regional Gas Supply Department, Water and Melioration Office.

Full list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

Minutes of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Firdovsi Mammadov, Executive Power Representative, who provided an overview of the Project, highlighting its importance and the areas traversed by the OHL alignment. Yusif Gayibov then provided further details on the Project. He noted that the preparatory works have been largely completed and that the implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan will commence shortly. Information was also provided on the Contractor and Subcontractors involved, along with their respective Project areas.

Yusif Gayibov (PIU Director) explained that the Project may result in certain temporary impacts; however, all such impacts will be properly addressed and restored in accordance with established procedures. He emphasized that the Project is of strategic importance for the country, particularly in supporting the development and expansion of green energy generation. Further to the participants request project land impact map and segmentation part was presented to people.

It was also noted that the Project will involve multiple companies and contribute to increased investment in the country. The construction of the 500 kV transmission line will enhance the reliability of the energy supply system, ensuring continuity of electricity provision even in the event of disruptions.

Jeyhun Pashayev (PIU Social Safeguards Specialist) informed about Project area, type of the possible impacts, and disclosed the RAP. The presentation took place in the event hall of the Executive Power (see photos in Annex 3).

Jeyhun Pashayev requested the participants to watch the presentation attentively, to take notes and ask question during the dedicated Q&A session after the end of the presentation.

The presentation consisted of the following parts:

- Introduction of the entire scope of AZURE project with main focus on “Azerbaijan TPP – Navahi S/s” OHL;
- Brief information about the anticipated permanent and temporary social impacts of the project;
- RAP Discolsure:
    - What is RAP?
    - How were the impacts identified, adressed and evaluated?
    - Entitlement matrix
    - Compensation calculation process for land acquisition and crop losses
    - Compensation budget
- Cut-off date
- Grievance Redress Mehcanism

Questions and answers

Questioner	Position /Status	Question	Answer
Togrul Abdullayev	Goshaqovag Municipality head	I would like to raise a concern regarding my land. Previously, we had trees under the OHL alignment, and Azerishiq required us to remove them, which we did. Now, this Project also affects my land, and I am concerned about potential impacts on the remaining trees. Could you please clarify how this will be addressed?	YG – Any trees affected by the Project will be compensated in accordance with the established procedures. The Decision of Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan No. 261 dated 16 may 2024 allows the users of land parcels under the OHL conductor and within the protection zone to plant trees up to 8-10 meters height. Only pylon's footprint couldn't be planted.
Mammadov Nofel	Agdash Water and Melioration Division, Senior Engineer	How will compensation be paid?	YG: Compensation will be transferred via bank card/account prior to the commencement of construction works. In addition, the Contractor will provide compensation for any temporary impacts, including accidental damage to trees.
Rajabov Musa	Arabojagi villager	You mentioned a ROW of 90 m. Could you please clarify what is meant by ROW? At times, different figures (60 m and 90 m) have been referenced—what do these represent?	Y.G.: The 90 m refers to the full width of the right-of-way (ROW), measured from the center line of the transmission line. The 60 m refers to the distance measured from the outer edge of the pylons/cables. J.P.: In practical terms, the working corridor is approximately 45 m from the

			center line, or about 30 m from each side of the pylons. This area is required to allow construction machinery to operate safely within the OHL corridor.
Jafarov Sahib	Arabojagi villager	How will the compensation amounts be communicated and agreed with affected persons? In cases where state lands are leased (e.g., 99-year leases), how will this Project address such arrangements? What duration of land use or leasing is envisaged? Will all impact-related issues be clarified and agreed with PAPs prior to accessing the land?	Y.G.: Referring to the compensation agreement document, a formal record is prepared indicating the agreed compensation amount and relevant terms, including the duration of land use. This document is signed by all relevant parties. For this Project, land use is envisaged for a period of up to 49 years. All compensation payments will be made prior to land access, and construction activities will commence only thereafter. J.P.: Moreover, Land Entry and Land Exit Protocols will be signed with the land owners and/or with the land users which will document all the collateral damages to the assets during the construction and the Contractor will be

			liable to compensate all these damages and restore the land to the previous condition.
Zahid Mollayev	Yukhari Aghjayazi villager	I am concerned that a large number of trees may be affected. We have made significant investments in growing these trees, and I am not confident that they will be adequately compensated.	YG: All affected trees will be compensated in accordance with established procedures. Any trees damaged during the construction phase will also be compensated by the Contractor. J.P.: In terms of fruit trees, such factors as maturity period and annual yield will also be considered. Currently, the sub-contractors surveying the line alignment together with the design institute. Where possible, micro-adjustments will be applied to the line route to avoid areas with dense planted trees.
Mammadov Yashar	Agdash Regional Power Network Senior Engineer	What about land associated with existing substations? Have these areas been considered, and is it possible to shift the alignment to avoid such lands?	YG: Yes, alignment adjustments can be considered where feasible.
Rashidov Rashid	Yukhari Aghjayazi villager	What will be the impact of pylons? Will we be able to cultivate trees within the ROW? How will impacts on trees be addressed during the operation phase, if they occur? I experienced impact to my trees before and would like to prevent similar situation this time.	YG: Cultivation within the ROW is generally permitted, subject to safety requirements. In case of any issues during implementation or operation, affected persons are advised to contact Azerenerji or submit a formal complaint through the appropriate channels as described in the presented GRM.

Mammadov Nofel	Agdash Water and Melioration Department, Engineer	We have water supply pipelines and irrigation channels in the area. What will happen if these are impacted?	YG: Impacts on such infrastructure will be avoided to the extent possible. Where avoidance is not feasible, solutions such as overcrossing will be applied to ensure continuity of service.
Rasulov Anvar	Arab village resident	Is it possible to shift pylons by 5–10 meters to avoid inaccuracies or conflicts between neighboring land parcels? How will compensation be determined? Will it be equal for all? For example, if I have invested around 30,000 AZN, will I receive only a few hundred manats as compensation? What happens if construction starts during the harvest period? I believe impacts should be assessed individually in such cases.	YG: Yes. Compensation will be paid by Azerenerji in accordance with the RAP. Payments will be based on the specific impacts identified for each affected person. In cases of vulnerability, additional support (equivalent to one month of minimum wage) will be provided. All compensation will be determined and paid in line with RAP provisions. Where feasible, the contractor should wait for the crop to be harvested and enter the land afterwards. However, if the Contractor doesn't want to wait, then he shall full compensate the crop loss.
Firdovsi Mammadov	Executive Power Representative	Does the government compensate only for the footprint of the pylons and not for the area under the OHL?	YG: Yes, compensation is provided for the footprint of the pylons. The area under the OHL is subject to an easement and is not compensated, as land use activities may continue within the corridor, subject to safety restrictions.

Ilkin Ismayilov	Dahnakhalilli municipality head	Will land be compensated equally?	YG: Compensation will be based on market value, taking into account land category and other relevant factors. The valuation company “Real Price” has conducted assessments and met with affected persons during the process.
Ayaz Abdullayev	Qolqeti municipality	Access roads are a major concern. Will alternative roads be used? Transportation of materials and pylons may disturb us and damage our land.	II: Existing village roads will be used to the extent possible. Use of heavy machinery is not planned for pylon erection works. The Supervision Engineer will monitor compliance with the ESMP, and a GRM will be in place from the commencement of construction works to address any issues.
Jafarov Shahin	Arabojaghi villager	Some land parcels have pivot irrigation infrastructure, which cannot be adequately compensated given the investments made. Would shifting the alignment be considered in such cases?	YG: In areas with pivot irrigation systems, alignment adjustments will be considered to avoid impacts. It is expected that such areas will be avoided to the extent possible.
Yashar Ahmadov	Local Gas Supply Utility (Azeriqaz), Senior Engineer	Please clarify land clearance with Azerigaz in relation to potential impacts on pipelines.	YG: Coordination of the OHL route was completed and all required consents collected from related agencies, including Azerigas. Upon collection of all opinions the final route adjusted accordingly and approved by related agencies. The approved route does not

			encroach with any communication/utility lines.
Samadov Samad	Arabojaqhi municipality	Can the Contractor wait until the end of wheat harvesting so that we can collect our crops?	YG: As I already mentioned, construction works will either be scheduled to allow completion of harvesting or compensation will be provided for any damage, in accordance with RAP provisions.
Jalilov Elnur	Arab villager	You mentioned a 90 m ROW. If only 100-200 sq. m of land is permanently affected by the pylon footprint, compensation will be provided. However, what happens if construction activities affect trees or if the Contractor enters the ROW and damages crops during the works?	YG. Any temporary impacts arising during construction, including damage to crops or trees, will be compensated by the Contractor in accordance with established procedures. Such impacts are expected to be avoided as far as possible, and uncontrolled damage to crops within the ROW will not be permitted.

ANNEX 1 – BROCHURE

AzərEnerji® AZURE WORLD BANK GROUP Energy & Extractives

Bərpa olunan enerji mənbələrinin şəbəkəyə inteqrasiyası Layihəsi

Nəvahi yarımstansiyasından "Azərbaycan" İstilik Elektrik Stansiyasına 500 kV-luq 235 km-lik hava elektrik verilişi xəttinin çəkilişi

AZURE (Azerbaijan: Renewable Energy Integration) layihəsi, Azərbaycanda bərpa olunan enerji mənbələrinin (BOEM) - xüsusilə günəş və külək stansiyalarının - ölkənin enerji şəbəkəsinə effektiv inteqrasiyasını təmin etmək üçün ötürücü şəbəkəni gücləndirən strateji bir layihədir. Dünya Bankının dəstəyi ilə həyata keçirilən bu layihə, "AzərEnerji" tərəfindən icra olunur.

Layihənin texniki parametrləri

- Xəttin uzunluğu – 235 km
- Xəttin gərginliyi – 500 kilovolt
- Mühafizə zolağının eni – 90 metr
- Quraşdırılacaq dayaqların sayı – 714
- Bir dayağın ortalam zəbt etdiyi sahə - təxminən 230 m^2
- Bir dayağın ortalama hündürlüyü – təxminən 32.4 metr
- Bir dayağın ortalama eni – təxminən 25.6 metr
- Tikintinin başlama tarixi: İyun 2026
- Tikintinin bitmə tarixi: Yanvar 2028
- Xəttin keçdiyi rayonlar və şəhərlər: Mingəçevir, Yevlax, Ağdaş, Ağsu, Göyçay, İsmayıllı, Şamaxı, Hacıqabul

Kompensasiyalar

- Sahədəki Obyektlərin təsbiti və siyahıya alınması peşəkar qiymətləndirici tərəfindən həyata keçirilib (2025-ci ilin Avqust-Noyabr ayları);
- Bu qiymətləndirmə əsasında vətəndaşlara və sahibkarlara dəyə biləcək zərərlərin şəffaf və ədalətli kompensasiyasını nəzərdə tutan Kompensasiyaların Ödənilməsi Planı hazırlanıb.

Şikayət və müraciətlərə baxılması

- Üç mərhələli şikayət və müraciətlərə baxılması mexanizmi işlək vəziyyətə gətirilmişdir;
- Aidiyyəti qurumların nümayəndələrindən ibarət Şikayətlərə Baxılması Komitəsi yaradılmışdır;
- Şikayət və müraciətlərlə bağlı AzərEnerji ASC-nin 186 qaynar xətti daim aktivdir;
- Sırf layihə ilə bağlı şikayət və müraciətlərin qəbulu üçün əlaqədar şəxs təyin olunmuçdur;

Son hüquqmüayyənedici tarix

Layihənin təsirinə məruz qalan şəxslərin və onların təsirə məruz qalan əmlaklarının (torpaq və s.) müəyyən edilməsinin ən son tarixidir. Həmin tarixdən **sonra** həmin əraziləri zəbt edən, həmin ərazilərdə əkin əkən və ya hansı bir tikili inşa edən şəxslərə heç bir kompensasiya ödənilmir.

Bizim layihənin son hüquqmüayyənedici tarixi!!!

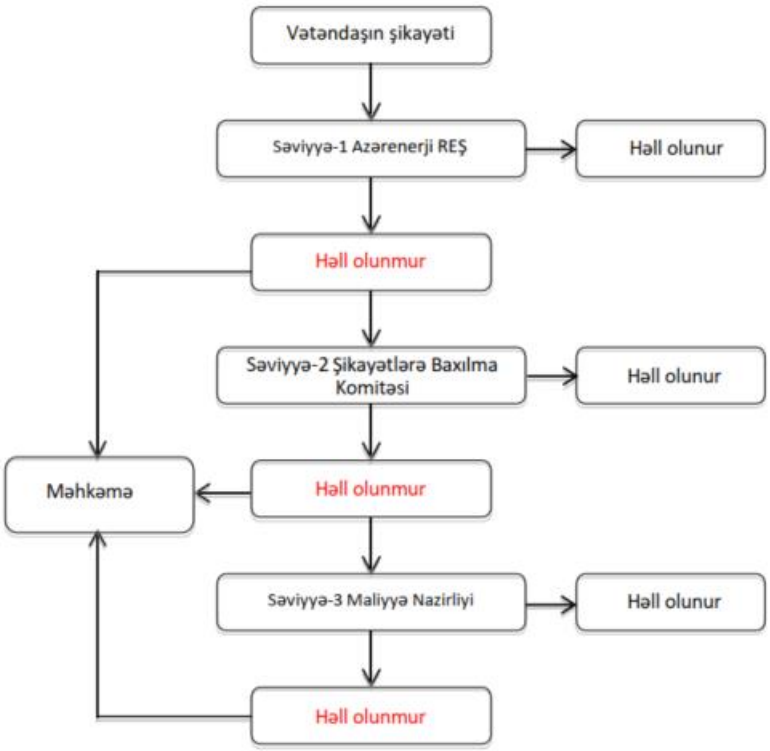
15 May 2026

Layihə ilə bağlı şikayət və təkliflrə baxılması üzrə əlaqədar şəxs:

Şəhriyar Məmmədov
Mob.: +994 10 327 28 19
e-mail: Shahriyar.Mammadov@azerenerji.gov.az

Grievance Redress Mechanism

Şikayət və Müraciətlərə Baxılma Mexanizmi



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e-mail: Shahriyar.Mammadov@azerenerji.gov.az

AzərEnerjinin Qaynar xətti: 186 (24/7)

e-mail: info@azerenerji.gov.az

Location: Goychay Region Executive Power Office

Date and time: April 29, 2026, 11:00 AM

Participants: 33 people attended including:

- Project affected people from Hacali, Garabaggal. Alkhasafa, Bighir, Arabjabirli, Ashagi Garamaryam and Incha villages;
- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Representatives of the local businesses;
- Representatives from Regional Power Network, Regional Gas Supply Department, Water and Melioration Office.

Full list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

Minutes of Meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Mahir Melikov, Senior Consultant at the Social and Economic Development Division of the Goychay Region Executive Power. He provided a general introduction to the Project and introduced the Azerenerji team present at the meeting.

Yusif Gayibov then delivered a general information on the AZURE Project. He explained that the Project includes construction of overhead transmission lines to strengthen the national grid. He also noted that a future electricity transmission component across the Caspian Sea is under consideration. As part of this broader initiative, Azerenerji has commenced the construction of the Navahi substation, and the current phase involves the development of a 500 kV transmission line to connect the generated power to the grid.

Yusif Gayibov further explained that extensive environmental and social preparatory works have already been carried out. Affected persons have been identified, and the Contractor and Subcontractors have been determined. In the project area, Subcontractor AZENCO will be responsible for construction activities. The Project affects state, municipal, and private lands. The valuation company “Real Price” conducted detailed field assessments, including a census of affected assets, and prepared a valuation report for all identified impacts. Based on these assessments, the Resettlement Action Plan was prepared by the Consulting company SRM and is now being disclosed. The implementation period of the Project is expected to continue until the end of 2027.

Jeyhun Pashayev also provided additional information on the Project. He introduced the cut-off date, set as May 15, 2026, noting that eligibility for compensation will be determined based on this date. He further explained the Grievance Redress Mechanism

(GRM), through which affected persons can raise any concerns related to impacts or compensation. Contact details for submitting complaints have been provided to the community.

It was also emphasized that a land entry protocol will be signed prior to accessing any property. All compensation will be paid before the commencement of construction works, and any temporary impacts will be compensated by the Contractor in accordance with the RAP provisions.

Questions and Answers

Name	Position	Question	Respond
Babayev Fuad	Qaramaryam municipality	Is compensation equal for all land plots? In case of leased land, will agreements be made only with the owner or also with the leaseholder? Has the land ownership and designation been clarified? Will compensation also cover loss of income due to land impacts?	YG – Compensation is not equal for all cases and is determined based on market value. Land parcels located closer to road infrastructure may have higher values. Compensation will be paid directly to the affected persons (PAPs) via bank transfer. Payments will be made on behalf of Azerenerji by the designated responsible representative. Yes, land ownership and status have been clarified. Compensation for land will be paid to the legal owner, while compensation for crop losses will be paid to the land user/leaseholder. Any damage to crops during construction will be covered by the Contractor. Land use under the pylons will generally remain possible. Cultivation activities, including planting of trees below the permitted height (8–9 meters), can continue. Therefore, significant impacts on income are not anticipated.
Qasimov Cavanshir	Aghjayazi	The main impact may come not from the pylons, but from construction machinery during access and transportation, which can damage the land. Has this been considered?	Any such impacts will be the responsibility of the Contractor, who will be required to compensate for damage and restore

		Based on previous experience, contractors did not properly restore land after works. This is a major concern.	affected areas in accordance with Project requirements. It was noted that this Project will follow stricter requirements, and proper restoration will be ensured under the supervision arrangements in place.
Agayev Agakishi	Garayazi, disable 2 group	Will additional compensation be provided for persons with disabilities?	Vulnerable persons, including those with disabilities, will receive additional assistance in accordance with RAP provisions, such as support equivalent to at least one month of minimum wage (e.g., 400 AZN).
Shikhaliyev Eldar	Hacali	What about land-to-land compensation? I may prefer receiving land instead of cash compensation.	land-to-land compensation is also an option upon availability of vacant land parcels. Please apply to local authorities for further information and assistance.
Huseynov Fariz	Qarayazi	How much compensation I will be paid for land affected by pylons? Can you explain the methodology used for valuation?	YG: The indicative compensation amount is approximately 876 AZN per pylon (cumulative), subject to site-specific assessment. The valuation methodology is described in detail in the RAP document which can be accessed in Azerenerji website.

ANNEX 1 – BROCHURE

AzərEnerji® AZURE WORLD BANK GROUP Energy & Extractives

Bərpa olunan enerji mənbələrinin şəbəkəyə inteqrasiyası Layihəsi

Nəvahi yarımstansiyasından "Azərbaycan" İstilik Elektrik Stansiyasına 500 kV-luq 235 km-lik hava elektrik verilişi xəttinin çəkilişi

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Layihənin texniki parametrləri

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Şikayət və müraciətlərə baxılması

- Üç mərhələli şikayət və müraciətlərə baxılması mexanizmi işlək vəziyyətə gətirilmişdir;
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- Sırf layihə ilə bağlı şikayət və müraciətlərin qəbulu üçün əlaqədar şəxs təyin olunmuçdur;

Son hüquqmüəyyənedici tarix

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Bizim layihənin son hüquqmüəyyənedici tarixi!!!

15 May 2026

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Mob.: +994 10 327 28 19
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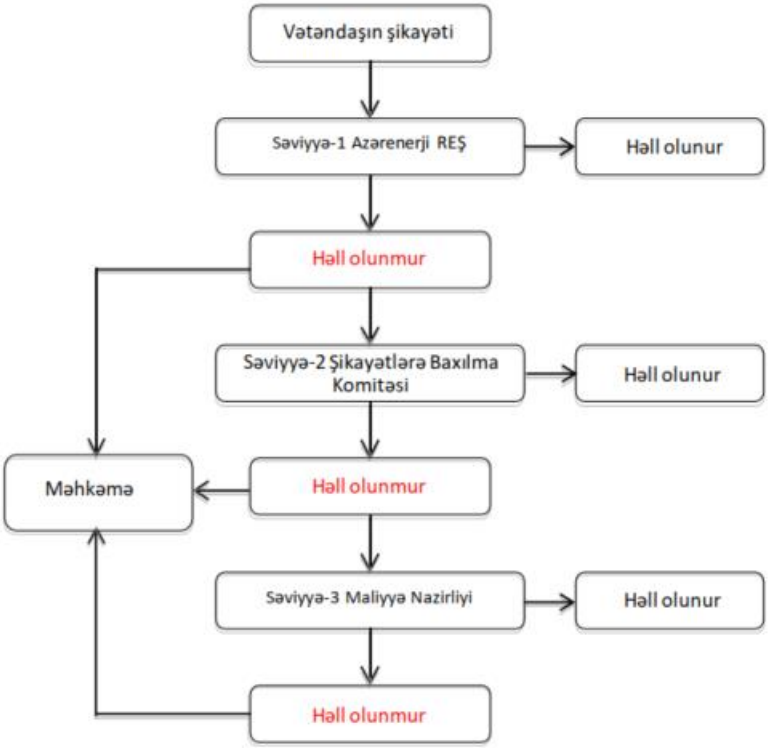
Grievance Redress Mechanism

Şikayət və Müraciətlərə Baxılma Mexanizmi



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AzərEnerjinin Qaynar xətti: 186 (24/7)

e-mail: info@azerenerji.gov.az

Location: Aghsu Regional Electricity Network Office

Date and time: April 29, 2026, 03:00 PM

Participants: 18 people attended including:

- Project affected people from Agsu Region as well as from Gagali, Agharkh, Namirli, Garagashli, Ulguj, Dashdamirbayli and Arabushaghi villages;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Representatives from Regional Power Network.

Full list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

Minutes of the meeting

Yusif Gayibov (PIU Director) provided an overview of the AZURE Project and its alignment, including details on the villages in the Agsu region traversed by the Project. He noted that approximately two years of preparatory work have been completed, including the bidding process, and that the Contractor and Subcontractors have been identified. Project implementation is expected to commence shortly. He explained that the 500 kV transmission line will facilitate the transfer of electricity from the Navahi substation to Mingachevir and further towards the border. Yusif Gayibov emphasized that the implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan may raise questions, and the purpose of the meeting is to provide clarification to affected persons.

Yusif Gayibov explained that the Project may result in certain temporary impacts; however, all such impacts will be properly addressed and restored in accordance with established procedures. He emphasized that the Project is of strategic importance for the country, particularly in supporting the development and expansion of green energy generation. Further to the participants request project land impact map and segmentation part was presented to people.

It was also noted that the Project will involve multiple companies and contribute to increased investment in the country. The construction of the 500 kV transmission line will enhance the reliability of the energy supply system, ensuring continuity of electricity provision even in the event of disruptions.

Jeyhun Pashayev (PIU Social Safeguards Specialist) informed about Project area, type of the possible impacts, and disclosed the RAP. The event took place in the event hall of the Aghsu Regional Electricity Network Office (see photos in Annex 3).

Since there was no possibility to display the presentation via projector, Jeyhun Pashayev provided the invormation verbally, requested the participants to listen attentively, to take notes and ask question during the dedicated Q&A session after the end of the intorduction.

The verbal presentation consisted of the following parts:

- Introduction of the entire scope of AZURE project with main focus on “Azerbaijan TPP – Navahi S/s” OHL;
- Brief information about the anticipated permanent and temporary social impacts of the project;
- RAP Discolsure:
    - What is RAP?
    - How were the impacts identified, adressed and evaluated?
    - Entitlement matrix
    - Compensation calculation process for land acquisition and crop losses
    - Compensation budget
- Cut-off date
- Grievance Redress Mehcanism

Questions and answers

Questioner	Position /Status	Question	Answer
Amrah Seyidov	Garagashli villager	We have been shown a sketch of the pylon, and we are being told to be patient and that compensation will be paid. However, based on the characteristics of the pylon and the ROW, it seems that cultivation will be significantly restricted. You mentioned a 90 m ROW—what area will effectively remain available for us?	Y.G.: The Decision of Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan No. 261 dated 16 may 2024 allows the users of land parcels under the OHL conductor and within the protection zone to plant trees up to 8-10 meters height. Only pylon's footprint couldn't be planted.
Ahmadov Javanshir	Garamammadli villager	I own a land plot of 59 sq. m. Previously, my son, a Karabakh war veteran, was not eligible to receive government support for unemployment due to the size of land registered under my name. Now that this Project affects my land, I am concerned about how compensation will be handled. In the past, I was informed that compensation would be paid, but this was not fulfilled. I would like to emphasize that if the Contractor proceeds with the works, all impacts must be properly addressed. As a land user, I expect that any damage or impact will be fully compensated; otherwise, I would not be willing to grant access to my land.	Y.G.: This project is different, since it is being financed by the World Bank. International financial institutions like the World Bank usually have strict regulations and control over the implementation of environmental and social obligations. And it is strictly prohibited by the Bank to enter any land without full compensation. Compensation will be paid to your accounts and only after that construction works will start. In case of any dissatisfaction or complaint, as my colleague Jeyhun Pashayev has already mentioned in his presentation and which is also noted in the brochures distributed to you, you can address your complaint through our GRM mechanism.

		For example, if 40 sq. m of my land is affected, compensation should not be limited to the land value alone. The loss of planned activities and potential income should also be taken into account.	J.P.: Moreover, Land Entry and Land Exit Protocols will be signed with the land owners and/or with the land users which will document all the collateral damages to the assets during the construction and the Contractor will be liable to compensate all these damages and restore the land to the previous condition.
Temrezov Oktay	Gegeli villager	Will compensation rates differ depending on land category?	Y.G: Yes, compensation rates will vary depending on land category and other relevant factors.
Islamov Ismayil	Dashdemirbeyli villager	Is it feasible for construction vehicles transporting pylons to operate within limited areas (e.g., 4 sq.m)? Based on past experience, such activities caused damage to my land.	Y.G: As my colleague already mentioned, Land Entry and Land Exit Protocols will be signed with the land owners and/or with the land users which will document all the collateral damages to the assets during the construction and the Contractor will be liable to compensate all these damages and restore the land to the previous condition.

ANNEX 1 – BROCHURE

AzərEnerji® AZURE WORLD BANK GROUP Energy & Extractives

Bərpa olunan enerji mənbələrinin şəbəkəyə inteqrasiyası Layihəsi

Nəvahi yarımstansiyasından "Azərbaycan" İstilik Elektrik Stansiyasına 500 kV-luq 235 km-lik hava elektrik verilişi xəttinin çəkilişi

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- Bir dayağın ortalama eni – təxminən 25.6 metr
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Kompensasiyalar

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- Bu qiymətləndirmə əsasında vətəndaşlara və sahibkarlara dəyə biləcək zərərlərin şəffaf və ədalətli kompensasiyasını nəzərdə tutan Kompensasiyaların Ödənilməsi Planı hazırlanıb.

Şikayət və müraciətlərə baxılması

- Üç mərhələli şikayət və müraciətlərə baxılması mexanizmi işlək vəziyyətə gətirilmişdir;
- Aidiyyəti qurumların nümayəndələrindən ibarət Şikayətlərə Baxılması Komitəsi yaradılmışdır;
- Şikayət və müraciətlərlə bağlı AzərEnerji ASC-nin 186 qaynar xətti daim aktivdir;
- Sırf layihə ilə bağlı şikayət və müraciətlərin qəbulu üçün əlaqədar şəxs təyin olunmuçdur;

Son hüquqmüəyyənedici tarix

Layihənin təsirinə məruz qalan şəxslərin və onların təsirə məruz qalan əmlaklarının (torpaq və s.) müəyyən edilməsinin ən son tarixidir. Həmin tarixdən **sonra** həmin əraziləri zəbt edən, həmin ərazilərdə əkin əkən və ya hansı bir tikili inşa edən şəxslərə heç bir kompensasiya ödənilmir.

⚠

Bizim layihənin son hüquqmüəyyənedici tarixi!!!

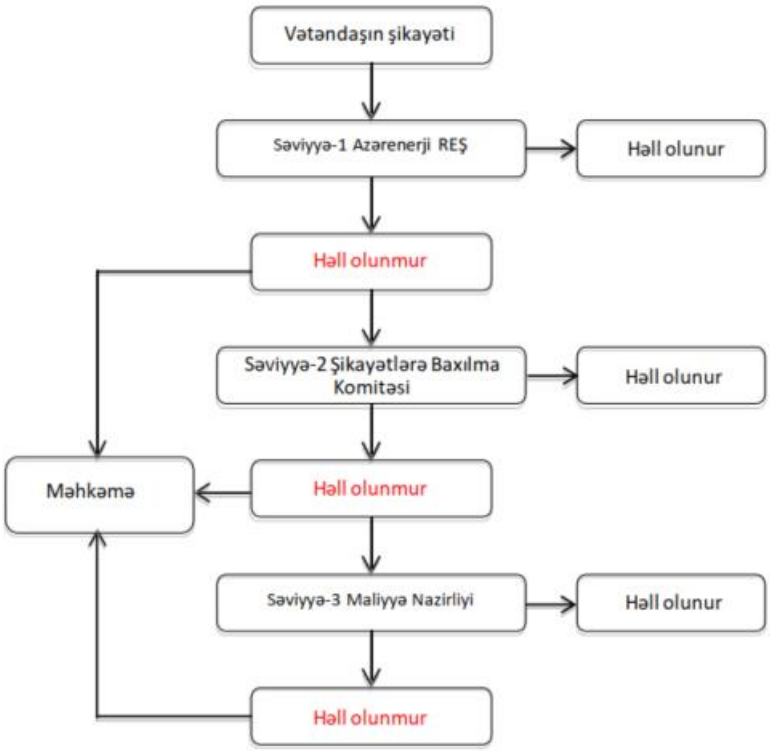
15 May 2026

Layihə ilə bağlı şikayət və təkliflrə baxılması üzrə əlaqədar şəxs:

Şahriyar Məmmədov
Mob.: +994 10 327 28 19
e-mail: Shahriyar.Mammadov@azerenerji.gov.az

Grievance Redress Mechanism

Şikayət və Müraciətlərə Baxılma Mexanizmi



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Şəhriyar Məmmədov

Mob.: +994 10 327 28 19

e-mail: Shahriyar.Mammadov@azerenerji.gov.az

AzərEnerjinin Qaynar xətti: 186 (24/7)

e-mail: info@azerenerji.gov.az

Location: Shamakhi region, Ovchulu village Executive Power Representative

Date and time: April 30, 2026, 11:00 AM

Participants: 20 people attended including:

- Project affected people from Ovchulu village of Shamakhi Region;
- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Representatives from Regional Power Network, Regional Gas Supply Department, Water and Melioration Office.

Full list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

Minutes of Meeting

The meeting was opened by Jeyhun Pashayev, who introduced the PIU safeguards staff attented the meeting, and provided an overview of the AZURE Project. He explained the expected project impacts, with particular emphasis on social impacts. It was noted that all relevant data on social impacts has been collected to support the assessment and determination of compensation. Jeyhun Pashayev clarified that compensation amounts are determined based on an established methodology and are communicated individually, rather than disclosed publicly. He then outlined the key compensation principles, including: land use compensation (up to 49 years, with a minimum payment threshold), compensation for crops and temporary impacts, as well as compensation for gardens and trees. Additional support will be provided to vulnerable persons, including assistance equivalent to one month of minimum wage.

It was further emphasized that, where possible, impacts will be avoided. All affected persons will receive compensation in accordance with the agreed methodology and contractual arrangements. If an affected person agrees, compensation will be paid accordingly; if not, concerns may be raised through the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).

Jeyhun Pashayev also noted that any temporary impacts during construction will be compensated by the Contractor. Upon completion of works, the Contractor will be responsible for restoring and rehabilitating the affected land.

Participants were informed that land demarcation activities may already be visible, as conducted by project surveyors. It was explained that after the cut-off date, no new improvements made on affected land will be eligible for compensation. Finally, information on the GRM was disclosed to the participants.

Questions and Answers

Name	Position	Question	Respond
Akbarov Alaskar		What is the width of the OHL right-of-way?	The ROW is 90 meters in total, measured from the center line.
Adilov Agasaddin		Will compensation first be paid by Azerenerji and then by the Contractor? What will compensation be paid for?	Yes, Azerenerji will provide compensation for land-related impacts, while the Contractor will be responsible for compensation related to temporary impacts during construction. Compensation will be provided for affected land and crops. The exact amounts will be specified in individual agreements/contracts.
Isayev Samaddin		Will compensation be paid directly to us?	Yes, compensation will be transferred directly to the affected persons' private bank accounts/cards.
Mammadov Vugar		This is the second OHL crossing our village. Will we receive an additional 10% compensation?	Yes, an additional 10% compensation will be applied in such cases.
Adilov Ismayil		The land I cultivate belongs to my parents, who have passed away. What should I do?	Compensation will be transferred to a deposit account under the name of the legal owner (the deceased parent). You will need to initiate inheritance procedures through the court to formalize ownership rights and become eligible to receive the compensation.
Gulmaliyev Teymur		Should we wait until construction works are completed? I would like to continue cultivating my land.	You may coordinate directly with the Contractor. If construction activities are not currently taking place in your area, you may continue cultivation, subject to agreement with the Contractor.

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Kompensasiyalar

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Son hüquqmüayyənedici tarix

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Bizim layihənin son hüquqmüayyənedici tarixi!!!

15 May 2026

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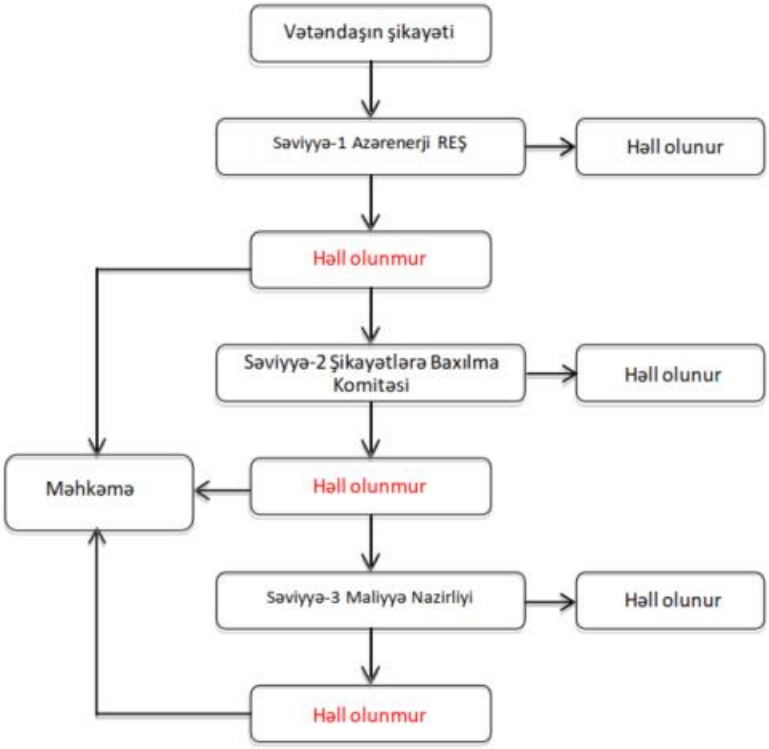

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e-mail: Shahriyar.Mammadov@azerenerji.gov.az

AzərEnerjinin Qaynar xətti: 186 (24/7)

e-mail: info@azerenerji.gov.az

Location: Hajigabul Region Executive Power Office

Date and time: May 01, 2026, 15:00 PM

Participants: 21 people attended including:

- Project affected people from Hajigabul region, Navahi and Ranjbar villages;
- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Representatives from Regional Power Network, Regional Gas Supply Department, Water and Melioration Office.

Full list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

Minutes of Meeting

The meeting was opened by Saleh Alaskarov, Deputy Head of the Hajigabul Executive Power. He referred to the relevant Cabinet of Ministers decree on the construction of the Navai Substation and noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues related to the construction of OHLs.

Jeyhun Pashayev thanked the participants and introduced himself and the project team. He provided background information on the Project, including its development history and activities already undertaken in Hajigabul, as well as the broader context of renewable energy development, including wind power plants. He explained that the Navai–Mingachevir overhead transmission line is part of the 500 kV network, with a total length of approximately 235 km. The procurement process has been completed, with Mitaş selected as the Contractor, and subcontractors assigned to different sections (approximately 80 km each). Construction is expected to commence in June 2026 and be completed by the end of 2027. The Project traverses Mingachevir city and several regions, including Hajigabul, where a portion of the OHL will be constructed.

Jeyhun Pashayev explained that discussions would focus on compensation arrangements for project-affected persons (PAPs). Both temporary and continuous (long-term) impacts are anticipated. Land use will be arranged through lease agreements for up to 49 years, with corresponding compensation to be paid. Temporary impacts arising during construction will be compensated by the Contractor.

He further noted that affected assets have been identified through surveys conducted by a specialized company, including consultations with PAPs, a census, and household-level surveys. Based on this information, the Resettlement Action Plan was prepared by the Consultant (SRM), ensuring that compensation is calculated in a fair and systematic manner.

It was explained that the permanent footprint of OHL pylons is limited (approximately 100-300 sq. m per pylon, depending on pylon type), although in some cases impacts may extend across neighboring land parcels. Compensation amounts has been determined based on the agreed methodology and will exceed a minimum 100 AZN. In cases where

a second transmission line affects the same land, additional compensation will be provided. Vulnerable persons will receive additional support, including assistance equivalent to at least one month of minimum wage. Compensation will be paid to both landowners and leaseholders, depending on the type of impact (land vs. crops/harvest). The OHL right-of-way is approximately 90 meters wide. Agricultural activities are generally permitted within the ROW; however, planting of trees exceeding 9 meters in height is restricted. Temporary impacts may occur during construction; to manage this, land entry agreements will be signed between the Contractor and PAPs, specifying access conditions and compensation for any potential damage. The Contractor will only enter the land after compensation has been agreed and paid. Upon completion of works, the Contractor will be responsible for restoring and rehabilitating the affected land.

It was emphasized that Project implementation will be supervised by an independent Supervision Engineer (MRC), ensuring compliance with environmental and social requirements.

Participants were informed about the cut-off date, after which any new improvements made on affected land will not be eligible for compensation.

It was noted that not all affected persons were present at the meeting, and municipalities were requested to disseminate the information to other PAPs. The Project was described as a state priority with expected benefits for the country and the region, including potential employment opportunities and local economic benefits. It was also emphasized that compensation payments are expected to be implemented in a timely and transparent manner.

Questions and Answers

Name	Position	Question	Respond
Saleh Alaskarov	EP deputy	What happens if a leaseholder of state land is affected? Have the coordinates of the OHL alignment been finalized?	Compensation will be provided for the impact on assets and livelihoods; the land itself is not compensated. Yes, the design has been completed and the alignment is defined.
Nacafov Faiq	Mugan settlement municipality	What if there is an impact on leaseholders of municipal land?	Compensation will be provided for the impact (e.g., crops, assets), while the value of land will be compensated to the municipality concerned.
Afandiyeva Yasamen	Greening area	What about impacts on trees located on state land?	Any affected trees will be compensated in accordance with the established procedures.
Zaur Ibrahimov	Navai settlement	Have all PAPs been consulted and agreed on compensation?	Not yet. Today we disclose the RAP. Later, every PAP will be approached and informed by Azerenerji PIU to sign consent form, LEP and to receive compensation.
Abbas Abbasov	Navai EP representative	A villager is cultivating land inherited from a deceased person, but documentation is incomplete. How will this be handled?	II. Ownership will be verified through cadastral records. In cases where ownership is disputed or not yet formalized, the compensation amount will be deposited in the name of the legal owner. Once the ownership issue is resolved through the court (or related institutions), the entitled person will be able to access the funds.
Minaye Velijanova	Rancbar	Can compensation be transferred to a pension card?	No, pension cards are not allowed to receive external receipts (arrangement of State Social Protection Fund). Compensation will be transferred to a designated bank account/card, in line with the established payment procedures.

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Son hüquqmüəyyənedici tarix

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15 May 2026

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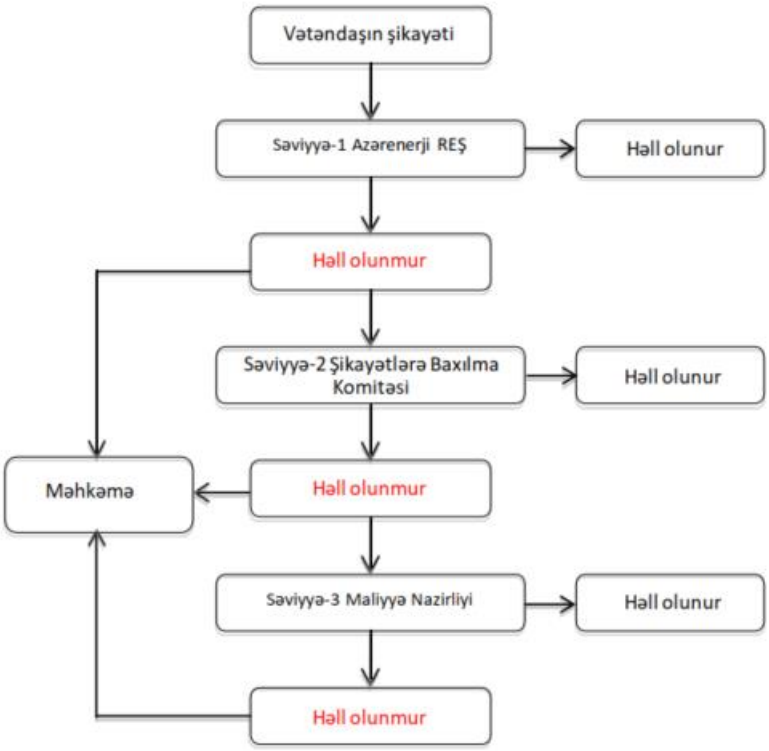

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APPENDIX J. Stakeholder Engagement: Community Consultations

Azerbaijan Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Project

Community Meetings with Project Affected Communities for Introduction of the Contractor and Disclosure of the Cut-off date

(Conducted with stakeholder representatives from Hajigabul, Shamakhi, Aghsu, Ismayilli, Goychay, Aghdash, Yevlakh regions, and Mingachevir city of Azerbaijan (27 April - 1 May 2026)

Background

As part of the Project implementation phase, and in line with environmental and social requirements, a series of community consultations were conducted across cluster communities in of Hajigabul, Shamakhi, Aghsu, Ismayilli, Goychay, Aghdash, and Yevlakh districts, as well as in Mingachevir city, Republic of Azerbaijan.

Objectives of the Consultations

The consultations were undertaken with the following objectives:

- To provide information on the Project scope, including its objectives, and components;
- To introduce the Contractor and sub-contractors, and planned construction activities;
- To inform stakeholders of potential environmental and social impacts and the corresponding mitigation measures;
- To highlight key measures addressing Community Health and Safety issues;
- To disclose the cut-off date, and grievance redress mechanism (GRM) structure;
- To present the GRM available to both communities and workers;
- To respond to stakeholder questions and concerns.

Methodology

The consultations were carried out through community meetings in the project-affected regions, with participation from local communities, project-affected persons, and relevant stakeholders. Stakeholders were encouraged to actively participate, raise questions, and provide feedback. All comments received during the consultations were documented and considered as part of the Project's ongoing stakeholder engagement process.

The community meetings were organized by the Contractor, with the support of the Local Executive Powers of the Rayons and Regional Electricity Network Offices of Azerenerji (REN), who informed their local citizens about the event as part of the outreach activities.

Location: Yevlakh Region, Tanrigulular village
Date and time: April 27, 2026, 12:30
Participants: 16 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Tanrigulular, Salahli, Havarli villages of Yevlakh Region), including

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Yusif Gayibov, (Director of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) informed participants that the AZURE (Azerbaijan Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Project) Project has now transitioned into the construction phase, with physical works scheduled to commence in mid-May. He further emphasized that this initiative constitutes a strategic investment in reinforcing the national transmission network, thereby facilitating the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's grid.

Ilaha Ilyasova, (Environmental and Social Coordinator of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC), highlighted the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Project, together with the corresponding mitigation measures. She further reported that the construction works have been awarded to Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş., with the support of subcontractors including AZENCO, "ElektrikQurashdirma" Company, and "AzerElektrikTikintiQurasdirma".

Ceyhun Pashayev, (Social Safeguard Specialist of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC), presented the cut-off date, established as 15 May 2026, corresponding to the commencement of the census and/or the official disclosure of project boundaries. He emphasized that no compensation will be provided for any assets or activities undertaken within the project area after this date. He further elaborated on the grievance redress mechanism for compensation, outlining the procedures and providing contact details for the submission and handling of complaints.

Rashad Aslan, (Social and Environmental Specialist of Electric Qurashdirma Company and representative of Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş) presented the planned construction activities, introducing work distribution between 3 sub-contractors, outlining the potential environmental and social implications, and the corresponding mitigation measures. He further elaborated on the relevant procedures during construction works, highlighting that community health and safety will be given due consideration, and that temporary land use will be reinstated to its original condition upon completion of works. He also explained the grievance mechanism available to stakeholders, providing contact details for the submission of community complaints.

A total of 16 participants attended the meeting, including 12 men and 4 women. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session.

	Question	Answer
1	Matiyeva Sharifa What is the land parcel price for 1 ha?	Yusif Gayibov The price for land plots varies by district. The compensation amount has been calculated by the valuation company based on market value and relevant criteria.
2	Nuriyev Shahid Will compensation be provided for land plots affected by the overhead transmission line?	Ilaha Ilyasova No. However, if any crops are damaged, their value will be compensated by the Contractor.
3	Bayramov Anar Will there be any restrictions if the transmission line passes through my land?	Ceyhun Pashayev Only trees exceeding 10 meters in height are not permitted. All other agricultural activities are not subject to restrictions.

Location: Yevlakh Region, Khanabad village
Date and time: April 27, 2026, 14:30
Participants: 5 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Khanabad village of Yevlakh Region), also

- Head of village Municipality;
- Village residents.

Minutes of the meeting

Shahriyar Mammadov, (Stakeholder/Community Engagement Specialist of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) informed participants that the AZURE Project has now transitioned into the construction phase, with physical works scheduled to commence in mid-May. He further emphasized that this initiative constitutes a strategic investment in reinforcing the national transmission network, thereby facilitating the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's grid. He highlighted the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Project, together with the corresponding mitigation measures.

Mr. Mammadov further stated that the construction works have been awarded to Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş., with the support of subcontractors including AZENCO, Electric Qurashdirma Company, and AzerElectric Construction and Installation.

He presented the cut-off date, established as 15 May 2026, corresponding to the commencement of the census and/or the official disclosure of project boundaries. He emphasized that no compensation will be provided for any assets or activities undertaken within the project area after this date. He further elaborated on the grievance redress mechanism for compensation, outlining the procedures and providing contact details for the submission and handling of complaints.

Rashad Aslan, (Social and Environmental Specialist of ElectricQurashdirma Company and representative of Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş) presented the planned construction activities, introducing work distribution between 3 sub-contractors, outlining the potential environmental and social implications, and the corresponding mitigation measures. He further elaborated on the relevant procedures during construction works, highlighting that community health and safety will be given due consideration, and that temporary land use will be reinstated to its original condition upon completion of works. He also explained the grievance mechanism available to stakeholders, providing contact details for the submission of community complaints.

A total of 5 participants attended the meeting, including 3 men and 2 women. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session.

	Question	Answer
1	Mammadov Ali The construction period is expected to cover 2026–2028. Will compensation be provided for land plots affected by the overhead transmission line during this period?	Shahriyar Mammadov Compensation is provided as a one-time payment. The works in the area will be completed within a few days, the land will be reinstated to its original condition, and the landowners will be permitted to use their lands.
2	Ismayilova Zemfira Will there be any restrictions if the transmission line passes through my land?	Shahriyar Mammadov Only trees exceeding 10 meters in height are not permitted. All other agricultural activities are not subject to restrictions.

Location: Agdash Region, Golgati village
Date and time: April 28, 2026, 10:30
Participants: 15 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Agjayazi, Shakili, Golgati, Arabojagi, Goshagovaq, Yukhari Agjayazi villages of Agdash Region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Shahriyar Mammadov, (Stakeholder/Community Engagement Specialist of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) informed participants that the AZURE Project has now transitioned into the construction phase, with physical works scheduled to commence in mid-May. He further emphasized that this initiative constitutes a strategic investment in reinforcing the national transmission network, thereby facilitating the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's grid. He highlighted the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Project, together with the corresponding mitigation measures.

Mr. Mammadov further stated that the construction works have been awarded to Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş., with the support of subcontractors including AZENCO, Electric Qurashdirma Company, and AzerElectric Construction and Installation.

He presented the cut-off date, established as 15 May 2026, corresponding to the commencement of the census and/or the official disclosure of project boundaries. He emphasized that no compensation will be provided for any assets or activities undertaken within the project area after this date. He further elaborated on the grievance redress mechanism for compensation, outlining the procedures and providing contact details for the submission and handling of complaints.

Rashad Aslan, (Social and Environmental Specialist of Electric Qurashdirma Company and representative of Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş) presented the planned construction activities, introducing work distribution between 3 sub-contractors, outlining the potential environmental and social implications, and the corresponding mitigation measures. He further elaborated on the relevant procedures during construction works, highlighting that community health and safety will be given due consideration, and that temporary land use will be reinstated to its original condition upon completion of works. He also explained the grievance mechanism available to stakeholders, providing contact details for the submission of community complaints.

A total of 15 participants attended the meeting, including 12 men and 3 women. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session.

	Question	Answer
1	Rashidov Azer 1. How much of my land plot will be affected by the AZURE project? 2. If the transmission line passes through my plot, will you carry out works on my land before I harvest my crops?	Shahriyar Mammadov 1. The exact size of affected land parcels varies depending on the type of tower and scope of the construction work. 2. The priority is to conduct construction works after the harvest. However, if this is not possible, the value of the crops will be assessed at market rates and compensated by the Contractor accordingly.
2	Jafarov Suleyman 1. Will compensation be provided for land plots affected by the overhead transmission line? 2. How can we be sure that complaints will be properly addressed?	Shahriyar Mammadov 1. No. However, if any crops are damaged, their value will be compensated by the Azerenerji during operation period. 2. A grievance mechanism has been established; all complaints will be registered, reviewed, and responded to in a timely manner.
3	Najafov Elshan Will compensation be provided for land plots affected by the overhead transmission line during this period?	Shahriyar Mammadov Compensation is provided as a one-time payment. The works in the area will be completed within a few days, the land will be reinstated to its original condition, and the landowners will be permitted to use their lands.

Location: Agdash Region, Kukel village
Date and time: April 28, 2026, 12:00
Participants: 17 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Kukel, Arab, Hushun villages of Agdash Region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Shahriyar Mammadov, (Stakeholder/Community Engagement Specialist of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) informed participants that the AZURE Project has now transitioned into the construction phase, with physical works scheduled to commence in mid-May. He further emphasized that this initiative constitutes a strategic investment in reinforcing the national transmission network, thereby facilitating the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's grid. He highlighted the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Project, together with the corresponding mitigation measures.

Mr. Mammadov further stated that the construction works have been awarded to Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş., with the support of subcontractors including AZENCO, Electric Qurashdirma Company, and AzerElectric Construction and Installation.

He presented the cut-off date, established as 15 May 2026, corresponding to the commencement of the census and/or the official disclosure of project boundaries. He emphasized that no compensation will be provided for any assets or activities undertaken within the project area after this date. He further elaborated on the grievance redress mechanism for compensation, outlining the procedures and providing contact details for the submission and handling of complaints.

Rashad Aslan, (Social and Environmental Specialist of Electric Qurashdirma Company and representative of Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş) presented the planned construction activities, introducing work distribution between 3 sub-contractors, outlining the potential environmental and social implications, and the corresponding mitigation measures. He further elaborated on the relevant procedures during construction works, highlighting that community health and safety will be given due consideration, and that temporary land use will be reinstated to its original condition upon completion of works. He also explained the grievance mechanism available to stakeholders, providing contact details for the submission of community complaints.

A total of 17 participants attended the meeting, including 13 men and 4 women. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session.

Location: Goychay Region, Bigir village
Date and time: April 28, 2026, 14:00
Participants: 30 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Garameryem, Bigir, Shahsultanli, Garabaggal, Garayazi, Inche villages of Goychay Region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Shahriyar Mammadov, (Stakeholder/Community Engagement Specialist of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) informed participants that the AZURE Project has now transitioned into the construction phase, with physical works scheduled to commence in mid-May. He further emphasized that this initiative constitutes a strategic investment in reinforcing the national transmission network, thereby facilitating the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's grid. He highlighted the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Project, together with the corresponding mitigation measures.

Mr. Mammadov further stated that the construction works have been awarded to Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş., with the support of subcontractors including AZENCO, Electric Qurashdirma Company, and AzerElectric Construction and Installation.

He presented the cut-off date, established as 15 May 2026, corresponding to the commencement of the census and/or the official disclosure of project boundaries. He emphasized that no compensation will be provided for any assets or activities undertaken within the project area after this date. He further elaborated on the grievance redress mechanism for compensation, outlining the procedures and providing contact details for the submission and handling of complaints.

Rashad Aslan, (Social and Environmental Specialist of Electric Qurashdirma Company and representative of Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş) presented the planned construction activities, introducing work distribution between 3 sub-contractors, outlining the potential environmental and social implications, and the corresponding mitigation measures. He further elaborated on the relevant procedures during construction works, highlighting that community health and safety will be given due consideration, and that temporary land use will be reinstated to its original condition upon completion of works. He also explained the grievance mechanism available to stakeholders, providing contact details for the submission of community complaints.
A total of 30 people, including 22 men and 8 women attended the community meeting.
The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session.

	Question	Answer
1	Huseynov Fariz How much compensation will be provided based on the land categories?	Shahriyar Mammadov Calculated compensation amounts will be individually briefed to concerned PAP.
2	Agayev Arzu When are works on municipal land expected to commence?	Rashad Aslan Municipal lands are identified as our initial starting points for the commencement of works.
3	Mammadov Akif How can I know if the lines pass through my land?	Rashad Aslan There will be marking fitting showing the pylon fitting. Lands located approximately 45 m from both sides falls within the protection corridor.
4	Rakif Mammadov Could you please confirm which list is the most recent?	Shahriyar Mammadov Each list serves as a primary reference. The lists are categorized into: those affected by tower locations, impacted under the transmission line, and falling within the protection corridor.

Location: Agsu Region, Agsu Municipality
Date and time: April 29, 2026, 10:30
Participants: 12 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties Navahi, Garagashli, Ulguc villages of Agsu Region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Shahriyar Mammadov, (Stakeholder/Community Engagement Specialist of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) informed participants that the AZURE Project has now transitioned into the construction phase, with physical works scheduled to commence in mid-May. He further emphasized that this initiative constitutes a strategic investment in reinforcing the national transmission network, thereby facilitating the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's grid. He highlighted the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Project, together with the corresponding mitigation measures.

Mr. Mammadov further stated that the construction works have been awarded to Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş., with the support of subcontractors including AZENCO, Electric Qurashdirma Company, and AzerElectric Construction and Installation.

He presented the cut-off date, established as 15 May 2026, corresponding to the commencement of the census and/or the official disclosure of project boundaries. He emphasized that no compensation will be provided for any assets or activities undertaken within the project area after this date. He further elaborated on the grievance redress mechanism for compensation, outlining the procedures and providing contact details for the submission and handling of complaints.

Rashad Aslan, (Social and Environmental Specialist of Electric Qurashdirma Company and representative of Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş) presented the planned construction activities, introducing work distribution between 3 sub-contractors, outlining the potential environmental and social implications, and the corresponding mitigation measures. He further elaborated on the relevant procedures during construction works, highlighting that community health and safety will be given due consideration, and that temporary land use will be reinstated to its original condition upon completion of works. He also explained the grievance mechanism available to stakeholders, providing contact details for the submission of community complaints.

A total of 12 participants attended the community meeting, all of whom were men. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session.

	Question	Answer
1	Seyidov Amrah How the land valuation was conducted? We kindly request clarification on this matter.	Shahriyar Mammadov The valuation has been carried out by independent valuation company in accordance with applicable legislation, based on the established land category and designated values, and calculated according to the size of the affected area based on fair market value approach.
2	Community member The old electrical lines have been dismantled in our area. Please clarify why the current project lines are not being constructed along the existing corridor. If this approach had been followed, our land parcels would not have been affected.	Shahriyar Mammadov The routing of the transmission lines is determined in the project design, taking into account technical requirements, site conditions, and future development plans.
3	Community member 1. We know that cultivation under the transmission line is not permitted by law. Once the lines are installed, agricultural activities in that area will not be allowed. No activities may be carried out within a 50×50 m area around the line. 2. If crops are damaged or burned due to the transmission line, will compensation be provided?	Shahriyar Mammadov 1. The Law allows users to plant under the transmission lines up to certain heights (8-10m). 2. Any damage to crops under the lines will be assessed and compensated accordingly by Azerenerji.
4	Community member Will compensation be provided for land plots affected by the overhead transmission line?	Shahriyar Mammadov No compensation is provided to lands within protection corridor. However, if any crops are damaged (during operation), their value will be compensated by the Azerenerji.

Location: Agsu Region, Gegeli village
Date and time: April 29, 2026, 12:00
Participants: 19 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Gegeli, Lengebiz, Dashdemibeyli, Gashad, Bico villages of Agsu Region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Shahriyar Mammadov, (Stakeholder/Community Engagement Specialist of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) informed participants that the AZURE Project has now transitioned into the construction phase, with physical works scheduled to commence in mid-May. He further emphasized that this initiative constitutes a strategic investment in reinforcing the national transmission network, thereby facilitating the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's grid. He highlighted the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Project, together with the corresponding mitigation measures.

Mr. Mammadov further stated that the construction works have been awarded to Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş., with the support of subcontractors including AZENCO, Electric Qurashdirma Company, and AzerElectric Construction and Installation.

He presented the cut-off date, established as 15 May 2026, corresponding to the commencement of the census and/or the official disclosure of project boundaries. He emphasized that no compensation will be provided for any assets or activities undertaken within the project area after this date. He further elaborated on the grievance redress mechanism for compensation, outlining the procedures and providing contact details for the submission and handling of complaints.

Rashad Aslan, (Social and Environmental Specialist of Electric Qurashdirma Company and representative of Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş) presented the planned construction activities, introducing work distribution between 3 sub-contractors, outlining the potential environmental and social implications, and the corresponding mitigation measures. He further elaborated on the relevant procedures during construction works, highlighting that community health and safety will be given due consideration, and that temporary land use will be reinstated to its original condition upon completion of works. He also explained the grievance mechanism available to stakeholders, providing contact details for the submission of community complaints.

A total of 19 participants attended the community meeting, all of whom were men. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session.

	Question	**Answer**
1	Suleymanov Elman 1. Some company vehicles drive at high speed through the village. We kindly request that such practices be avoided under your Project. 2. Will the fertile topsoil be affected? 3. What is the difference between the lines constructed 50 years ago and those being constructed now? 4. What will be the height of the towers?	Rashad Aslan 1. A Traffic Management Plan has been developed, and such practices will not be permitted. In line with the Plan, designated access routes will be used. 2. The fertile topsoil will be removed and stored separately, construction works will be carried out on the subsoil, and the topsoil will be reinstated upon completion of the works. 3. The current transmission lines are fully insulated and do not generate inductive effects. 4. The height of the towers is 40 meters.
2	Community member When are construction works planned to commence in the Aghsu area?	Rashad Aslan Approximately in the autumn of 2027.
3	Teymurazov Ogtay 1. How many sots of land will be compensated for the installation of the towers? Although 2–3 sot of land may be sufficient for tower installation, up to 1 hectare of land may be affected during the installation works. 2. If we sow seeds on our land, how will compensation be calculated? The cost of seeds is minimal; therefore, we request compensation based on the expected crop yield rather than the cost of the seeds. 3. In Dashdemirbeyli village of Aghsu district, the old towers were removed and replaced with new ones. During this process, the asphalt road was damaged and has not been restored. We request that the roads be rehabilitated upon completion of works.	Rashad Aslan 1. Approximately 1–3 sot of land is required for the installation of each tower (depending on tower type), and compensation will be provided accordingly. 2. The compensation will be paid for the crops. 3. Access roads will be designated for the implementation of this Project. Upon completion of the Project, any affected roads will be reinstated and restored to a condition equal to or better than their original state.
4	Musayev Zaur 1. Will the condition of the land be assessed prior to signing the Land entry–exit protocol? 2. How will compensation be paid?	Rashad Aslan 1. Yes, the land will be assessed prior to signing the Land entry–exit protocol? 2. Compensation will be paid via bank card transfer.

Location: Agsu Region, Padar village
Date and time: April 29, 2026, 14:30
Participants: 11 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Padar, Benecik villages of Agsu Region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Shahriyar Mammadov, (Stakeholder/Community Engagement Specialist of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) informed participants that the AZURE Project has now transitioned into the construction phase, with physical works scheduled to commence in mid-May. He further emphasized that this initiative constitutes a strategic investment in reinforcing the national transmission network, thereby facilitating the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's grid. He highlighted the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Project, together with the corresponding mitigation measures.

Mr. Mammadov further stated that the construction works have been awarded to Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş., with the support of subcontractors including AZENCO, Electric Qurashdirma Company, and AzerElectric Construction and Installation.

He presented the cut-off date, established as 15 May 2026, corresponding to the commencement of the census and/or the official disclosure of project boundaries. He emphasized that no compensation will be provided for any assets or activities undertaken within the project area after this date. He further elaborated on the grievance redress mechanism for compensation, outlining the procedures and providing contact details for the submission and handling of complaints.

Rashad Aslan, (Social and Environmental Specialist of Electric Qurashdirma Company and representative of Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş) presented the planned construction activities, introducing work distribution between 3 sub-contractors, outlining the potential environmental and social implications, and the corresponding mitigation measures. He further elaborated on the relevant procedures during construction works, highlighting that community health and safety will be given due consideration, and that temporary land use will be reinstated to its original condition upon completion of works. He also explained the grievance mechanism available to stakeholders, providing contact details for the submission of community complaints.

A total of 11 participants attended the community meeting, all of whom were men. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session.

	Question	Answer
1	Mushfig Eyibov 1. How many sots of land will be compensated for the installation of the towers? 2. When will the construction works start?	Shahriyar Mammadov- 1. Approximately 1–3 sot of land is required for the installation of each tower (depending on tower type), and compensation will be provided accordingly. 2. Construction works are expected to commence in early June 2026.
2	Novruzaliyev Maharram 1.We have already sown crops—what should we do after 15 May? 2. What will happen if we are unable to harvest the crops on our land before construction?	Rashad Aslan- 1. If you have already sown crops, this has been taken into account in the valuation. After 15 May 2026, no further planting should be undertaken. 2. The priority is to conduct construction works after the harvest. However, if this is not possible, the value of the crops will be assessed at market rates and compensated by the Contractor accordingly.
3	Umudov Avaz Will construction works commence after compensation has been paid?	Shahriyar Mammadov Compensation will be paid prior to construction works.

Location: Shamakhi Region, Bagirli village
Date and time: April 30, 2026, 10:30
Participants: 15 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Bagirli village, and Shamakhi region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Shahriyar Mammadov, (Stakeholder/Community Engagement Specialist of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) informed participants that the AZURE Project has now transitioned into the construction phase, with physical works scheduled to commence in mid-May. He further emphasized that this initiative constitutes a strategic investment in reinforcing the national transmission network, thereby facilitating the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's grid. He highlighted the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Project, together with the corresponding mitigation measures.

Mr. Mammadov further stated that the construction works have been awarded to Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş., with the support of subcontractors including AZENCO, Electric Qurashdirma Company, and AzerElectric Construction and Installation.

He presented the cut-off date, established as 15 May 2026, corresponding to the commencement of the census and/or the official disclosure of project boundaries. He emphasized that no compensation will be provided for any assets or activities undertaken within the project area after this date. He further elaborated on the grievance redress mechanism for compensation, outlining the procedures and providing contact details for the submission and handling of complaints.

Rashad Aslan, (Social and Environmental Specialist of Electric Qurashdirma Company and representative of Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş) presented the planned construction activities, introducing work distribution between 3 sub-contractors, outlining the potential environmental and social implications, and the corresponding mitigation measures. He further elaborated on the relevant procedures during construction works, highlighting that community health and safety will be given due consideration, and that temporary land use will be reinstated to its original condition upon completion of works. He also explained the grievance mechanism available to stakeholders, providing contact details for the submission of community complaints.

A total of 15 people, including 11 men and 4 women attended the community meeting. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session.

	Question	Answer
1	Mirzayev Agamirze 1. At the time the land was allocated to me, my household consisted of 8 people-myself, my spouse, and six children. Since then, all my children married, and my extended family now comprises of 42 members. As all family members have a legitimate interest in the land, we kindly request that this be taken into consideration during compensation payment and that their names be duly reflected in the protocol. 2. We request that construction works do not commence prior to the payment of compensation. 3. If heavy vehicles access the land in the future (e.g., for maintenance or emergency works) and cause damage to crops, will such damages be compensated?	Shahriyar Mammadov 1. The price for land plots varies by district. The compensation amount has been calculated by the valuation company based on market value and relevant criteria. 2. Construction works will not commence until compensation has been paid in the construction zone. 3. Any damage to land resulting from Project activities will be compensated by the Azerenerji.
2	Mirzayev Agil Could you please confirm when the compensation will be paid?	Shahriyar Mammadov Compensation will be paid prior to the commencement of construction works in the area.
3	Zakiye Iskenderova We know that it will not be possible for combine harvesters or tractors to access the land for agricultural work, as this is not permitted, when it is affected by OHL. Therefore, we request higher compensation payment, as we will lose the use of our land parcels.	Rashad Aslan Only trees exceeding 10 meters in height are not permitted. All other agricultural activities are not subject to restrictions. Compensation will be calculated and paid in accordance with applicable legislation.
4	Gulkhar Muradova Many families in our village have a lot of children, with some having up to 12 children. There is a lack of employment opportunities, and we do not receive social assistance. As the Project will impact our land parcels, we kindly request higher compensation to compensate the loss of our livelihoods.	Shahriyar Mammadov The price for land plots varies by district. The compensation amount has been calculated by the valuation company based on market value and relevant criteria.

Location: Shamakhi Region, Chol Goyler village
Date and time: April 30, 2026, 11:50
Participants: 20 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Chol Goyler, Birinici Chayli, and Gushchu villages of Shamakhi Region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Shahriyar Mammadov, (Stakeholder/Community Engagement Specialist of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) informed participants that the AZURE Project has now transitioned into the construction phase, with physical works scheduled to commence in mid-May. He further emphasized that this initiative constitutes a strategic investment in reinforcing the national transmission network, thereby facilitating the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's grid. He highlighted the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Project, together with the corresponding mitigation measures.

Mr. Mammadov further stated that the construction works have been awarded to Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş., with the support of subcontractors including AZENCO, Electric Qurashdirma Company, and AzerElectric Construction and Installation.

He presented the cut-off date, established as 15 May 2026, corresponding to the commencement of the census and/or the official disclosure of project boundaries. He emphasized that no compensation will be provided for any assets or activities undertaken within the project area after this date. He further elaborated on the grievance redress mechanism for compensation, outlining the procedures and providing contact details for the submission and handling of complaints.

Rashad Aslan, (Social and Environmental Specialist of Electric Qurashdirma Company and representative of Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş) presented the planned construction activities, introducing work distribution between 3 sub-contractors, outlining the potential environmental and social implications, and the corresponding mitigation measures. He further elaborated on the relevant procedures during construction works, highlighting that community health and safety will be given due consideration, and that temporary land use will be reinstated to its original condition upon completion of works. He also explained the grievance mechanism available to stakeholders, providing contact details for the submission of community complaints.

A total of 20 people, including 16 men and 4 women attended the community meeting. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session.

	Question	Answer
1	Is it possible that land user is not recorded in the e-database? If so, how will this case be handled?	Shahriyar Mammadov In such instances, the PIU will undertake field-based verification in coordination with local authorities and community representatives to identify and document actual land users. In line with World Bank ESS5, lack of formal registration will not preclude eligibility for compensation and assistance. Verified land users will be included in the Project census database and will be entitled to compensation for affected assets. Where ownership or use rights remain unclear or disputed, compensation will be managed through appropriate interim arrangements (e.g., escrow accounts) until resolution. The Project's Grievance Redress Mechanism will provide an accessible channel for claims and verification.
2	Kerim Badalov During the planting period after June, there will be an increased risk of fire. Who will compensate for lost crops?	Shahriyar Mammadov Azerenerji will be responsible for any damage caused by fire during operation of OHL.
3	How many sots of land will be compensated for the installation of the towers? Although 2–3 sot of land may be sufficient for tower installation, up to 1 hectare of land may be affected during the installation works.	Shahriyar Mammadov Approximately 1–3 sot of land is required for the installation of each tower (depending on tower type), and compensation will be provided accordingly.
4	Community member Is compensation provided for land plots affected under the overhead transmission line?	Shahriyar Mammadov No. However, if any crops are damaged, their value will be compensated by the Contractor.

Location: Hajigabul Region, Navahi village
Date and time: April 30, 2026, 15:20
Participants: 14 people (villagers, representatives of interested parties from Navahi, Ranjbar, Pirsaat villages of Hajigabul Region), also

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- Representative of the service organizations.

Minutes of the meeting

Shahriyar Mammadov, (Stakeholder/Community Engagement Specialist of the PIU, Azerenerji JSC) informed participants that the AZURE Project has now transitioned into the construction phase, with physical works scheduled to commence in mid-May. He further emphasized that this initiative constitutes a strategic investment in reinforcing the national transmission network, thereby facilitating the efficient integration of renewable energy sources into Azerbaijan's grid. He highlighted the potential environmental and social impacts associated with the Project, together with the corresponding mitigation measures.

Mr. Mammadov further stated that the construction works have been awarded to Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş., with the support of subcontractors including AZENCO, Electric Qurashdirma Company, and AzerElectric Construction and Installation.

He presented the cut-off date, established as 15 May 2026, corresponding to the commencement of the census and/or the official disclosure of project boundaries. He emphasized that no compensation will be provided for any assets or activities undertaken within the project area after this date. He further elaborated on the grievance redress mechanism for compensation, outlining the procedures and providing contact details for the submission and handling of complaints.

Rashad Aslan, (Social and Environmental Specialist of ElectricQurashdirma Company and representative of Mitash Enerji ve Madeni İnşaat İşleri T.A.Ş) presented the planned construction activities, introducing work distribution between 3 sub-contractors, outlining the potential environmental and social implications, and the corresponding mitigation measures. He further elaborated on the relevant procedures during construction works, highlighting that community health and safety will be given due consideration, and that temporary land use will be reinstated to its original condition upon completion of works. He also explained the grievance mechanism available to stakeholders, providing contact details for the submission of community complaints.

A total of 14 people, including 6 men and 8 women attended the community meeting. The meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session.

	Question	Answer
1	Community member We propose that the works should not start prior to civil works; the land category of the land should be considered; land entry and exit protocols should be signed. Will these be given due consideration?	Shahriyar Mammadov Construction works will not commence prior to the payment of compensation. The land category will be taken into account in the calculation of compensation. Land entry and exit agreements will be signed with the landowners.
2	Lalazar Huseynova Please clarify whether Azerishiq and Azerenerji are undertaking the same activities?	Shahriyar Mammadov Azerenerji is responsible for electricity generation and transmission infrastructure, while Azerishiq is responsible for electricity distribution to end users.