

Project for Strengthening the Transmission Network in the Southeast Region

In order to meet the goals of the European Union for the integration of energy from Renewable Energy Sources (RES), MEPSO makes efforts to maximize the integration of these energy sources into the national power system. Due to the favorable climate conditions, the investments in the RES (wind power, solar power and hydropower) are most cost-effective in the south-eastern region of the country. Therefore, it is expected that the most significant investments in utilization of RES are/will be located predominately in this region.

In order to realize these projected aims, MEPSO is in the preparation process for the **Project for Strengthening the Transmission Network in the Southeast Region** of the country. The Project consists of two components:

Component 1: Design, construction and operation of a new 400/110 kV substation Miletkovo at an approximate distance of 8 km from the existing 110/35 kV substation Valandovo, in the area of the village Miletkovo. This new substation will be connected with the existing 110 kV transmission network in the Project region as well as with the existing 400 kV transmission line Dubrovo – Thessalonica (GR), by in-out connection (Component 1 or Sub-project 1).

Component 2: Reconstruction of the existing 110 kV transmission line Valandovo – Strumica 2 – Strumica 1 by upgrading its transmission capacity (Component 2 or Sub-project 2).

More Project related information can be found on the following link:
<https://www.mepso.com.mk/index.php/mk/jugo-istok/>

The following documents are currently publicly disclosed:

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Scoping Report
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Grievance Form

Documents to be publicly disclosed when approved:

- Environmental and Social Assessment Reports for both Project's components
- Non-technical Summary
- Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework

- Environmental and Social Management Plan
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report, to be prepared in line with the national legislation

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Printed copies of the documents can be found at the premises of:

- Municipality of Strumica, Sando Masev br.1, 2400 Strumica. www.strumica.gov.mk
- Municipality of Gevgelija, Dimitar Vlahov 4, 1480 Gevgelija. www.gevgelija.gov.mk
- Municipality of Valandovo, Ivo Lola Ribar br.3, 2460 Valandovo. www.valandovo.gov.mk

Project's Options and Alternatives:

Component 1: During the current planning process, a number of Project's options / alternatives were identified and assessed with an aim to select the most feasible option from technical/engineering, environmental and social, and economic and financial perspective. These were based on the relevant strategic and technical studies of MEPSO, and were as follows (for Project's Component 1):

- (1) Project Option 1 - Double Circuit 110 kV OHL Dubrovo – Valandovo, with the following main components:
 - Construction of a new 110 kV OHL between Valandovo and Dubrovo
 - Upgrade of the 400/110 kV substation (SS) Dubrovo
- (2) Project Option 2 - New 400/110 kV substation its connection with the existing 400 kV OHL Dubrovo – Thessalonica (GR), with the following main components:
 - Construction of a new 400/110 kV substation
 - Connection of the existing 400 kV OHL Dubrovo – Thessalonica (GR) into the new substation
- (3) Project Option 3 – New 400/110 kV substation with interconnection - new 400 kV OHL Dubrovo – Valandovo – Thessalonica (GR), with the following main components:
 - Construction of a new 400/110 kV substation in Valandovo
 - Construction of a new 400 kV OHL Dubrovo – Valandovo – Thessalonica (GR)

Project's Component 2 - Reconstruction of the existing 110 kV OHL from Valandovo to Strumica is included in each of the identified Project options. The existing OHL passes through urban zones in Strumica. This section will be replaced with underground cable, routed below street network in Strumica.

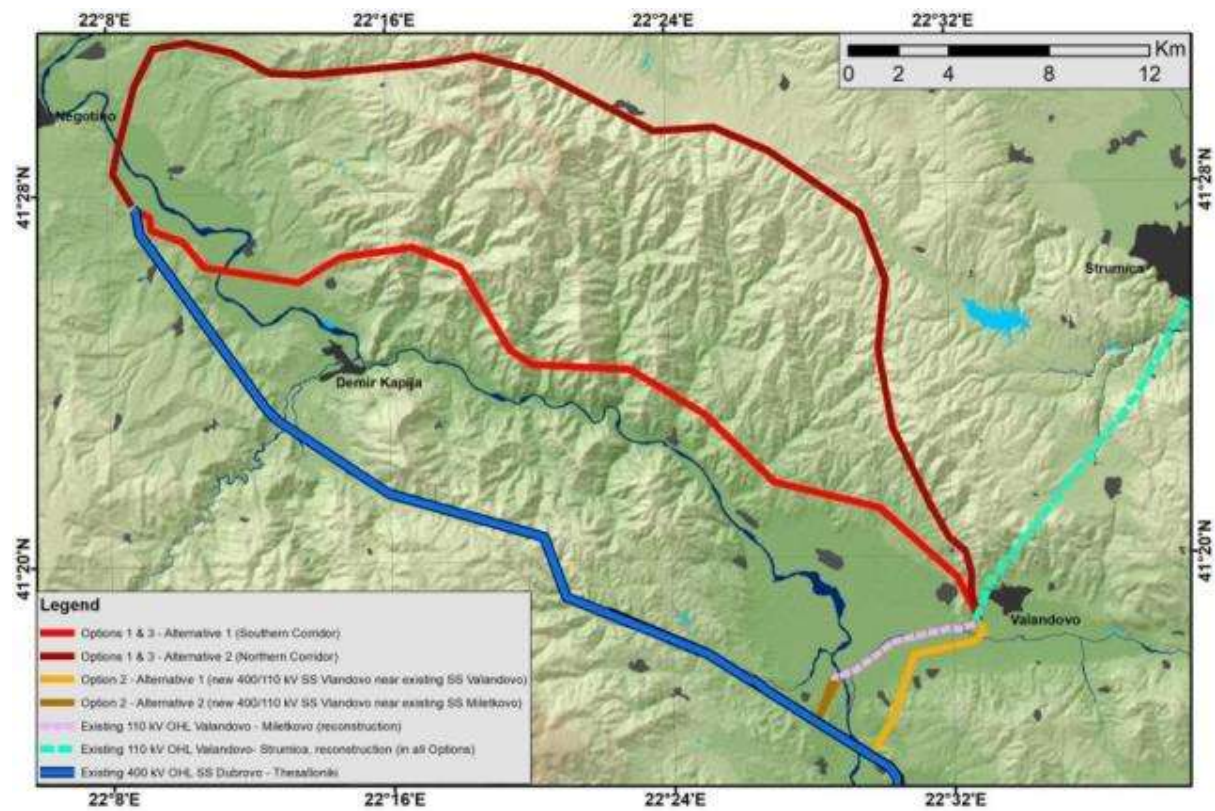
Key potential environmental impacts from the Project include: short-term and localized disturbance of air quality and nuisance due to noise during construction; risk of water and soil pollution due to accidental spills (i.e. oil or fuel); and very limited loss of vegetation. No nationally protected area will be affected by the implementation of the Project

Key potential social impacts from the Project include: improvement of the Macedonian power system; employment and business opportunities during construction; increased intensity and volume of the heavy traffic during construction (potential for traffic incidents and accidents); community and occupational health and safety issues; limited access to particular locations (e.g. during construction activities in urban area of Strumica).

Mitigation measures for impacts include: Construction Environmental and Social Management Plan to mitigate and monitor the potential environmental and social impacts, including good construction practice and procedures to protect air and water quality; to reduce construction noise; procedures to minimize impacts to nature and biodiversity; Waste Management Plan; Community and Occupational Health and Safety Plan(s)' Grievance Mechanism for Public and Workers; and Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. Also, relevant human resources policies will be implemented, such as Non-discrimination and Equal Opportunities Policy; Policy against Child and Forced Labour. Traffic Management Plan will be created and implemented to mitigate traffic risks and disturbance during construction.

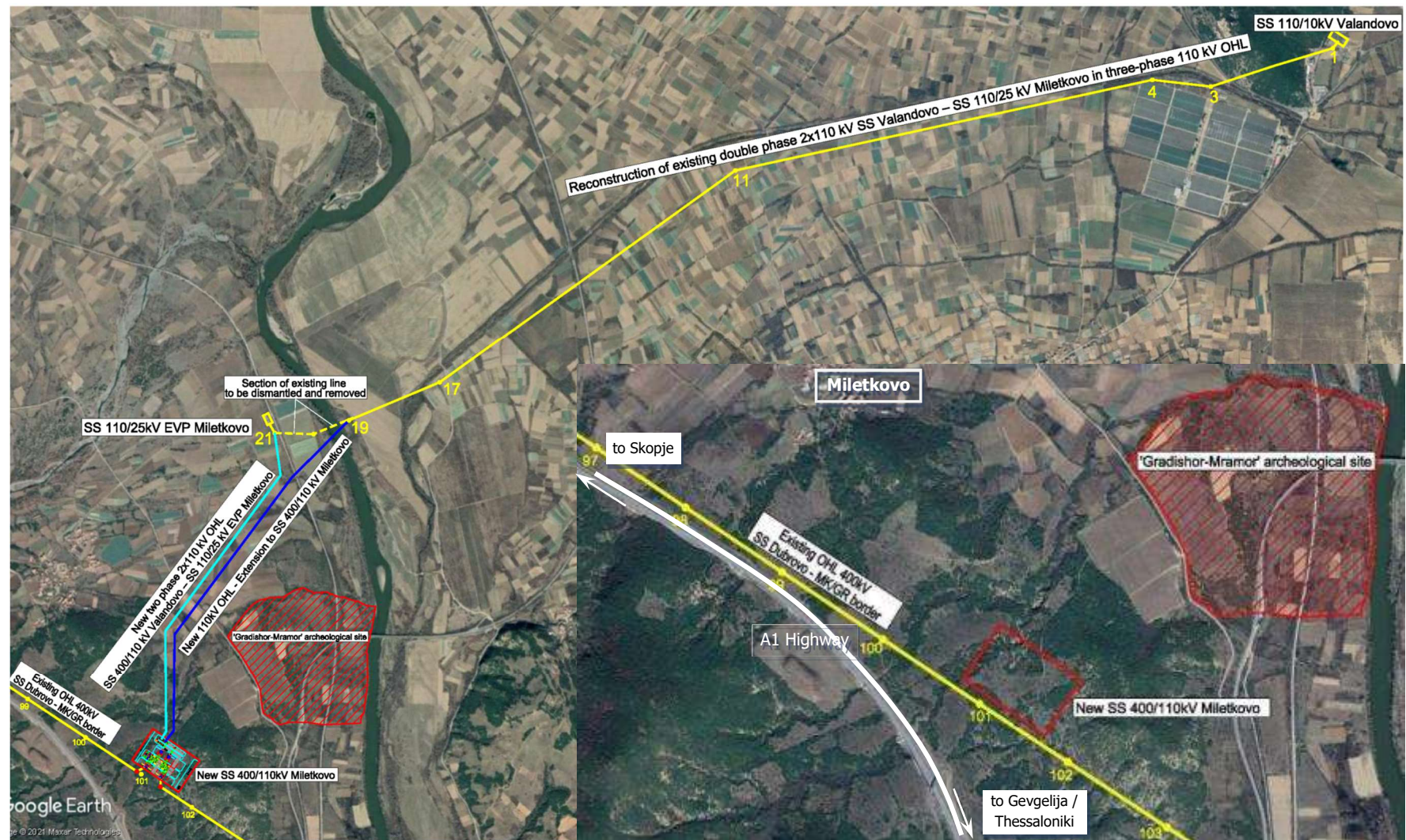
Acknowledgment: Please feel free to share this information with those who you think are or will be interested about this Project.

These considered Project's options / alternatives are presented below.



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Annex: Project figures



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Project Component 2 – Proposed route of the underground transmission cable in urban zone of Strumica

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