

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

99-00-467
06 December 2024, Sofia

Subject: *Environmental impact assessment procedure for the project "Increasing the share of electricity production from renewable sources by completing the works and ensuring permanent monitoring of the environmental impact of the hydropower plant on the Jiu River in the Livezeni - Bumbesti sector" - continuation of the remaining works to be executed at the AHE Livezeni - Bumbesti" in accordance with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context (ESPOO)*

DEAR MINISTER FECHET,

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your letter with reference number DGEICPSC/126431/14.10.2024 (Reg. number 99-00-467/15.10.2024 of the Ministry of environment and water of the Republic of Bulgaria) submitting the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the project "Increasing the share of electricity production from renewable sources by completing the works and ensuring permanent monitoring of the environmental impact of the hydropower plant on the Jiu River in the Livezeni - Bumbesti sector" - continuation of the remaining works to be executed at the AHE Livezeni - Bumbesti, in Romania.

After the consideration of the documentation and on the basis of the opinions submitted by the interested and competent authorities, I hereby express the following opinion:

Mircea FECHET
Minister of Environment, Water and Forests of Romania
12 Libertatii Blvd.,
Sector 5, Bucharest, Romania



Sofia 1000, 22 Maria-Luisa Blvd
Phone: +359 2 940 6194, Fax: +359 2 986 25 33



Regarding biodiversity and protected areas:

The report assesses the impact of the project on biodiversity, including on the territorial integrity and the subject of conservation of the ROSCI0063 Defileul Jiului protected area under the Habitats Directive, as well as bird species of conservation concern in the neighbouring ROSPA0084 Munții Retezat protected area.

We consider the EIA to be objective and the project's distance of more than 200 km from the Danube river, our border with Romania, does not imply a direct and indirect negative impact on biodiversity and protected areas in Bulgaria.

Regarding the component "water":

In view of the nature of the activities foreseen in the project and the location of the affected water body (the River Jiu) in relation to the Bulgarian section of the Danube, the implementation of the project is not expected to lead to new changes in the physical characteristics, ecological potential and chemical status of the water body Danube with code BG1DU000R001.

Regarding human health:

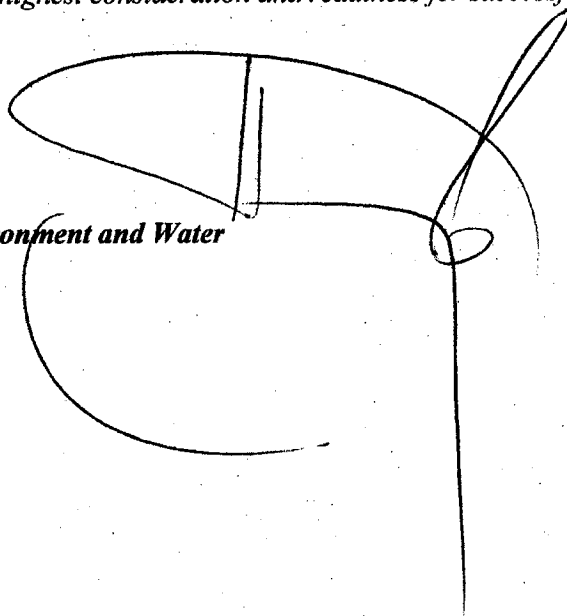
During the construction and finishing works and the subsequent operation of the power plant, accidents, incidents or technical problems may occur and the Jiu River may be polluted. In this connection, the following conditions are to be implemented in the final administrative act as mandatory on the contracting authority:

1. An emergency plan with specific measures to control the impact on water quality and to prevent pollution of the water of the Jiu River and hence the water of the Danube, including in a transboundary aspect, must be drawn up at the design stage. Emergency plan to be submitted to the Bulgarian authorities.
2. In the course of operation, a plan for monitoring the water quality of the Jiu River, which is a tributary of the Danube and may affect its water quality, respectively the water intake facilities for drinking water supply and their respective sanitary protection zones, especially in possible emergency situations.
3. In the event of an accident(s) and/or pollution of the water of the river the competent Bulgarian authorities are to be informed in due time.

Please accept my highest consideration and readiness for successful future cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Petar Dimitrov
Minister of Environment and Water

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long vertical stroke extending downwards.