



RED
ELÉCTRICA
DE ESPAÑA

**Public participation
in the Spain - France subma-
rine electricity interconnec-
tion across the Bay of Biscay**



Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. WHAT IS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?	3
3. AGENTS INVOLVED AND DUTIES OF PARTICIPANTS APPENDIX VI 4 a) REGULATION 347/2013	4
4. PHASES AND MEASURES TO FACILITATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS	4
5. PROCEDURAL SCHEME.....	7



1. INTRODUCTION

Due to its strategic nature, on 14 October 2013, the Spain-France electricity interconnection across the Bay of Biscay (HVDC Gatica-Cubnezais Line) was designated as a "Common Interest Project" by the European Commission and Parliament and, therefore, must comply with the terms of EU REGULATION no. 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, one of the requirements of which is a public participation during the initial planning stage.

2. WHAT IS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

Public participation can be defined as the process whereby people offer their points of view, knowledge and resources, to take part in the decision making process.

Public participation is intended to publicly display the project information and to collect contributions on the project that may be put forward by any association, citizen or economic and social agent.

The purpose of public participation processes is:

- To take on-board the environmental and social feeling of the population at the project's onset.
- To ensure that no major decision is made without consulting the public concerned or affected public administrations.
- To make relevant information on the project accessible, in a way that is easy for citizens to understand (no technicisms).
- To inform of the right to participate and how it can be exercised.
- To identify the public concerned and the affected public administrations that may participate in the PCPP.
- To establish a direct channel of communication between queries of the population and the experts and parties responsible for each phase and area of an extraordinarily complex project.
- To continually involve the public from the beginning of the decision making process, facilitating understanding of the project, explaining clearly and transparently the need for the project and defining the matters to be addressed at each stage. This must all be carried out in comprehensible language that is accessible to the whole population, highlighting how environmental, social and landscape variables have been taken into account.
- To obtain useful information from the public concerned.
- To justify the option adopted and the way in which the public contribution has been included.



3. AGENTS INVOLVED AND DUTIES OF PARTICIPANTS APPENDIX VI 4 A) REGULATION 347/2013

The duties of the agents involved in the participation process:

Developer duties

- To provide the necessary resources to the public participation process.
- To ensure that citizens have the appropriate participation opportunities.
- To guarantee that the information presented to citizens is clear, complete, truthful and comprehensible.
- To take citizens' points of view into consideration.
- To give due attention and response to citizens' comments, recommendations and interests.
- To find a consensus.
- To make final decisions.

Duties of the public concerned

- To take an active part in the participation process.
- To gain awareness of the various interests and visions at play and understand the need to find consensual solutions.
- To contribute from each perspective to improving and enhancing proposals.

4. PHASES AND MEASURES TO FACILITATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS

All parties involved in the process of granting authorisations shall respect the principles for public participation established in appendix VI of Regulation 327/2013, without prejudice to any requirement applicable in accordance with the Aarhus and Espoo Conventions and European Union legislation.

Public participation will take place at two stages of the procedure:

1. In the Preliminary Procedure, the public consultation will be performed with the purpose of informing all interested parties on the project in its early stages. It will help to determine the most appropriate location or trajectory and the pertinent issues that must be addressed in the application.



During the public consultation, national, regional and local authorities, land owners and citizens residing locally to the project, the general public and their associations, organisations or groups **will be informed.**

The information will be provided through the following **channels**:

The website, which will include the following documentation:

- a) Informative brochure.
- b) Non-technical summary.
- c) The scheduling of the project and the public consultation, dates and locations of public consultations and hearings.
- d) Contact details for obtainment of documents.
- e) Contact details for comments and objections.

This website will be established and updated regularly by the project developer, and will be linked to the Commission website.

The informative brochure that should include:

- a) A general description of the objective.
- B) A project schedule.
- c) Alternative routes.
- d) Envisaged impacts.
- e) Palliative measures.

Face-to-face public communications plan

As part of the consultation, the public will be invited to town hall meetings, where they will be provided with all relevant information on the project, and attendees may make statements and comments as they deem fit.

The project developer will prepare a report summarising the results of activities relating to public participation before submitting the application, including activities taking place before the start of the authorisation granting process. The project developer will present this report and the application to the pertinent authority. These results will duly be taking into consideration in the overall decision.



PHASE	ACTION	ACTIVITY
PHASE 1	PRESENTATION AND START OF THE PARTICIPATION PROCESS	Press release
		Announcement in the BOE, BOPV and BOB
		Institutional project presentation
PUBLIC CONSULTATION		
PHASE 2	SUPPLY OF INFORMATION	Website
		Points of information in town councils included in the study area.
		Document mailings in town councils included in the study area.
		Invitations to attend meetings
		Radio - press - Television
		Informative panels distributed by town councils included in the study area
PHASE 3	CONSULTATION AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION	Public participation meetings
		Meetings with experts
		Consultation with administrations
PHASE 4	END OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION	Press release
PHASE 5	INCORPORATION OF RESULTS	Preparation of a report detailing the results of the public consultation



2. In the Procedure for granting regulatory authorisations, the public may participate as part of the public information process, defined, as appropriate, in Royal Decree 1955/2000, of 1 December, regulating transport, distribution, marketing and supply activities and electricity facility authorisation procedures, and in Law 21/2013, of 9 December, on environmental evaluation.

This public information will take place in a project authorisation procedure that is inclusive of all options concerning the determination of content, length and definition of the project.

The developer will present the project and the environmental impact study will be subject to public information for 30 days, following an announcement published in the Official State Gazette, the Office Gazette of the affected provinces and, if declaration of public use, in a major newspaper of each of the affected provinces has been specifically requested.

Likewise, this information will be communicated to the local councils in the municipal district in which the goods or rights affected by the facility are located, for dissemination to the public, for the same amount of time.

The announcement will include the locations where the public can consult information, as well as other technical questions.

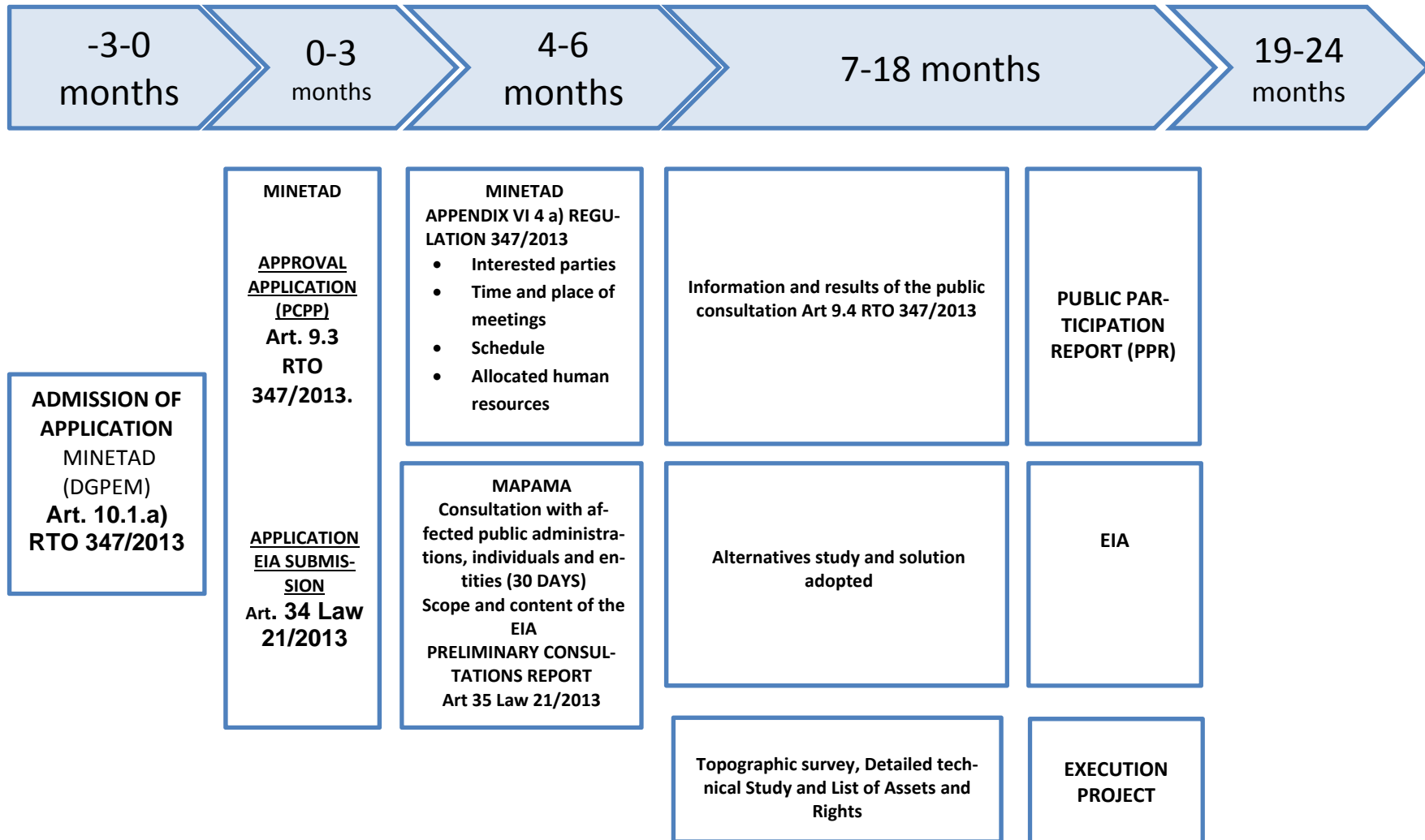
Additionally, the various administrations, bodies and, if appropriate, public service or general services companies that have or may have affected goods or rights will be informed, as will the affected public administrations and persons concerned in the environmental procedure.

5. PROCEDURAL SCHEME

- Public consultation: Preliminary Procedure.
- Public information: Procedure for granting regulatory authorisations.



1.- Art. 10.1.a) Preliminary Procedure Regulation 347/2013





2. Art .10.1.b) Procedure for granting regulatory authorisations Regulation 347/2013

