

Rule 130

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Subject: Geothermal energy - 'environmental compensation' and environmental impact assessment

Under the 'General Agreement on geothermal energy' memorandum of understanding ¹ signed by ENEL, the Tuscany Regional Government and municipalities in geothermal zones and the Voluntary Land Use Agreement² adopted by the Tuscany Regional Government, ENEL is to pay 'environmental compensation' of EUR 650 000 to the municipalities concerned for each new megawatt of installed geothermal power.

The Tuscany Regional Government is conducting the environmental impact assessment and environmental incidence assessment of the Piancastagnaio 6 geothermal power plant (proposed by ENEL through its subsidiary ENEL Green Power) in an area adjacent to Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) IT5190013 and IT51A0017.

In 2014, after an ‘environmental compensation’ agreement had already been concluded, the Tuscany Regional Government authorised ENEL to construct the Bagnore 4 geothermal power plant within SAC IT51A0018 – ‘Monte Labbro and the Upper Albenga Valley’.

In the light of the above, can the Commission state:

1. Whether an environmental impact and environmental incidence assessment for a plant to which environmental compensation is already being applied independently of those two assessments can be considered to be valid. If not, what action does it intend to take?
2. Whether the environmental incidence assessment for Bagnore 4 can be considered to be valid, and whether Italy has notified the 'environmental compensation' measures to the Commission? If not, what action does it intend to take?

Supporter³

¹ <http://www.distrettoenergiarinnovabili.it/der/cosvig/accordo-generale-geotermia/accordo-generale-geotermia/protocollointesaaccordo20dicembre2007.pdf>

[illegible]

³ This question is supported by a Member other than the author: Rosa D'Amato (EFDD).