

# Science-based support to the energy sector, local communities, and the state in the area of environmental protection

## ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

The development and research activities of the department focus on the protection, preservation, and enrichment of the natural capital, on economic resource management and low-carbon economy, as well as on protection against environmental pressures and risks for the health and well-being of people.



Protecting the environment in its broadest sense is our core research and development objective.



Environmental compliance is monitored by accredited methods and procedures according to the EN ISO 17020 and EN ISO 17025 standards.



We encourage open dialogue with stakeholders as it leads to optimal environmental solutions.

The experts of the Environmental Department carry out environmental and expert studies, model assessments, expert opinions, and reports on implemented measurements, advise in complex administrative procedures, offer technical consultation services, supervise existing devices that impact the environment, and develop new methodologies in environment protection and environmental impact assessment.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND EXPERT REPORTS

Experts consider the importance of identification and management of environmental and social risks in all phases of electric power facilities, from planning to their termination of operation.

The current know-how about environmental impacts of engineering or production facilities and other interventions have been upgraded with environmental sensitivity models that consider data about the introduced special protection

aspects, environmental and spatial feature that can present an important natural, spatial, environmental, or social asset in a certain area.

The mentioned approach enables the integration of public incentives with regard to sustainable environment management and enables the introduction of dialogue with stakeholders in spatial planning process. Achieving an agreement between state authorities and local communities, the civil society and individuals are of key importance for achieving acceptable solutions, resulting in environmentally acceptable options for everyone.

### WE WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARDS

By considering the established verification procedures and quality assurance as well as by using environmental information systems or accredited methods and procedures according to SIST EN ISO/IEC 17025 and SIST EN ISO/IEC 17020 standards, the experts ensure control of environmental conformity.

## APPLIED WORK IN ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ENCOMPASSES:

- The preparation of environment-related expert documents:
  - environmental reports,
  - environmental impact reports,
  - environmental sensitivity analyses,
  - expert studies for including the public in intervention planning procedures,
  - assessments of acceptability of intervention in the local environment,
  - managing procedures for obtaining environmental consents,
  - managing procedures for obtaining environmental consents,
  - cooperation with device managers, administrative authorities, and civil society.
- The preparation of environment-related expert documents:
  - consultations and cooperation in administrative procedures,
  - the implementation of the Aarhus Convention into the spatial planning procedures,
  - project feasibility analyses.
- The consideration of environmental quality parameters:
  - operational monitoring,
  - environmental impacts modelling,
  - the supervision of measuring systems,
  - the provisions of measurements.
- The consideration of the input of substances and energy in the environment:
  - initial measurements (the authorisation of the ministry competent for the environment),
  - operational monitoring (the authorisation of the ministry competent for the environment),
  - the supervision of measuring systems (the authorisation of the ministry competent for the environment),

- the assessment of the quantity of substance input in the environment,
- the provision of measurements.
- Introducing supporting information technology:
  - OIS – the information system for consistent validation and supervision of the operation of measuring equipment,
  - iRMS – IT system for measuring equipment management,
  - online support to environmental activities.
- In-depth Research and Development:
  - studies in environmental protection, the development of new methodologies for environmental impacts assessment,
  - the development and implementation of emission records,
  - development scenario projections,
  - the assessment of environmental quality parameters,
  - recommendations for an active inclusion in legislative procedures,
  - the preparation of documents for environmental rehabilitation and the improvement of environmental conditions,
  - designing the principles for rational prevention,
  - the development of e-mobility concepts.



**The energy sector is embedded in the environment at many levels, and our scientific findings on the protection of the natural environment and human health provide an important basis for dialogue between all stakeholders.**

## SCIENTIFIC BASIS AND DIALOGUE NECESSARY FOR APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

Honest thinking and ethics are values that can help us understand the importance of dialogue.

We can often not avoid different interests in spatial planning; therefore, it is important to respect and understand the opinion of all interested parties. This is a special challenge because we must objectively assess and consider various standpoints and interests. Appropriate solutions can be achieved through open dialogue by considering the opinion of others which is the only way to reach acceptable environmental solutions.

Cumulative impact of air pollution with dust particles from traffic and major industrial plants in Ljubljana

