



Direction Générale

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 M. Klaus-Dieter BORCHARDT
 Directorate B – Internal Energy Market
 B1 « Networks & Regional Initiatives »
 Rue de Mot, 24
 B-1040 BRUXELLES

VOS RÉF.

AOS RÉF. DRSIBLLGC-13.009

INTERLOCUTEUR



SUBJECT

Request for modification of Commission Decision C(2010)8207 of 25 November 2010 –
 Action n°EEPR-2009-INTg-FR / Sub-Action 1 : prolongation of implementation period

Bois-Colombes, 31 JUIL. 2013

Dear M. Borchardt,

On 25 November 2010, the European Commission decided to grant Union financial aid to the action "EEPR-2009-INTg-FR - Reinforcement of French gas network on the Africa-Spain-France axis". This action includes, as sub-action n°1, the procurement of gas pipes for the reinforcement of the Rhône pipeline on GRTgaz's network.

The reinforcement of the Rhône pipeline - GRTgaz's project "ERIDAN" - was designed on the basis of initial market assessment and basic studies. Its timeline was set up accordingly, with a start of operation planned in 2016. Today, the detailed studies have proven this industrial project to be highly complex ; this lead to envisage an extension of the initial timeline, which in the context of the latest evolutions of the gas market would not cause prejudice to the development of the market.

The Rhône corridor is a very dynamic and densely populated region (with industrial areas, important infrastructures and major cities, farms/wineyards among other characteristics) and the detailed studies had to deal with diverse and numerous constraints to determine the best route and the best specifications. In the end, the reinforcement requires a tailored route with many crossings (rivers - including the Rhône river on several points - railways, roads, other infrastructures). In view of this complexity, the initial timeline of ERIDAN turns out to be too tight, in particular as regards the permitting process and the pipe orders. GRTgaz now envisages a revised schedule with a start of operation by 2017.



In parallel, significant evolutions occurred in the international gas sector since 2010. Market players have been rescheduling later their expectations for an increase in LNG importations in France, no longer expected before 2019, and for additional interconnection capacities between Spain and France, no longer expected before 2020. The reinforcement of the Rhône pipeline is still needed to contribute to market integration and price convergence in Europe, through the development of the interconnection between the French North and South market zones on a North-South axis in Europe, but this development is not expected before 2018. Thus the revised schedule of ERIDAN would still remain in line with market expectations.

Taking these elements into account, GRTgaz kindly requests the European Commission to prolong the implementation period for the action, until 31/12/2016. Milestones for completion of activity 1 would then become "1-Pipes order" in 30/06/2016 and "2-Pipes delivery" in 31/12/2016.

TIGF, as co-beneficiary of the Union financial aid for the action, gave its consent to this modification in a letter dated 23 July 2013, which you will find enclosed to this letter.

In accordance with section III.2.7. of the above-mentioned decision, you will also find the prior approval of the French State enclosed to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A large rectangular gray box used to redact a signature.

CEO

Encl.:

[Letter by TIGF](#)

[Letter by the French State](#)

Direction Générale
DG 2013-044 MD/min

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate ENER. B « Security of supply, Energy
markets & Networks
Office 06/150
Rue De Mot, 24
B – 1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

Pau, July 23rd, 2013

Subject : EEPR-2009-INTg-FR - article III.2.7.2

In accordance with article III.2.7.2 of Commission Decision C(2010)8207 dated November 25th 2010 concerning the granting of Union financial aid to action EEPR-2009-INTg-FR (reinforcement of the French gas network on the Africa-Spain-France axis), we inform you that TIGF supports the request submitted by GRTgaz for the postponement of the completion dated from June 30th 2015 to December 31st 2016.

We are at your disposal for further information.

Best regards,



Managing Director.

Dénomination sociale : Transport et Infrastructures Gaz France
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MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCOLOGIE, DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
ET DE L'ÉNERGIE

Direction générale de l'énergie et du climat

Paris, le 31 JUIL. 2013

Sous-direction Sécurité d'approvisionnement et
nouveaux produits énergétiques (SD2)

Le directeur adjoint de l'énergie

Bureau Infrastructures gazières (2E)

à

Affaire suivie par : [redacted]

Directeur adjoint
Direction Stratégie et Europe

802 | 504

Objet : Prolongation d'une action engagée bénéficiant d'un concours financier de l'Union européenne dans le cadre du Programme Energétique Européen pour la Relance (PEER)

Monsieur,

Par courrier électronique en date du 24 juillet 2013, vous souhaitez recueillir l'accord préalable de la Direction générale de l'énergie et du climat, afin de pouvoir solliciter auprès de la Commission européenne une extension de la période d'une action engagée bénéficiant d'un concours financier de l'Union européenne dans le cadre du Programme Energétique Européen pour la Relance (PEER).

Cet accord préalable est requis en application des dispositions de la section III.7.2 de l'annexe III de la décision du 25 novembre 2010 de la Commission européenne concernant l'octroi d'un concours financier de l'Union européenne en faveur du projet « renforcement du réseau gazier français sur l'axe Afrique-Espagne-France ».

Compte tenu des éléments exposés dans votre demande, en particulier concernant la complexité du projet révélée par les études détaillées réalisées par GRTgaz, et de l'avis favorable de mes services, j'ai décidé de donner mon accord à votre demande de modification de la décision susvisée.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de mes meilleures salutations,

Le directeur adjoint de l'énergie

A l'attention de [redacted]
GRTgaz
6, rue Raoul Nordling
92 277 Bois-Colombes CEDEX