

Çirpılar coal power plant Turkey

Sectors: Coal Electric Power Generation, Coal Mining

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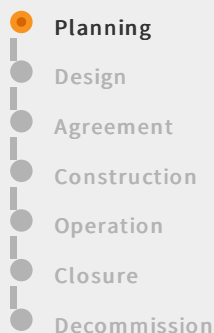


Sectors

Coal Electric Power Generation, Coal Mining

Location

Status



Website

<http://taszemin.com.tr/>

About Çirpılar coal power plant

The Çirpılar power plant is a proposed coal-fired power plant to be located in the Çanakkale province, near Çirpılar, Turkey. It would be fuelled by a new open-pit lignite (brown coal) mine, which would cover an area of 845 hectares. The plant would consume [3.5 million tonnes](#) of lignite per year, and produce 200MW of thermal energy. Storage for 465,000 tonnes of coal would be developed, covering an area of around 90 football pitches (36.5 hectares) on the edge of the pristine Mount Ida.

Latest developments

Cannakale Court decides to cancel EIA approval of Cirpilar project

Apr 24 2020

EIA process has restarted

May 30 2019

Why this profile?

The Cirpilar coal power plant would [add about 5 million tonnes of CO2](#) into the earth's atmosphere thereby contributing to climate change. The project would have adverse impacts on local biodiversity and the rich flora and fauna of nearby Mount Ida national park.

What must happen

The project should be cancelled, as its Environmental Impacts Assessment is not appropriate. It is planned on a valuable agricultural land of which over 10,000 people's livelihood depend, the process requires a cumulative impact assessment. However, given current Turkish energy policies, there is a chance that the project will proceed despite the problems in its EIA.

The Paris Climate Agreement goals require a managed decline of fossil fuel production. The construction of new coal-fired power plants is not compatible with this goal. Banks must immediately stop financing new coal-fired power plant developments anywhere in the world. As such, banks should steer clear of financing this project.

Impacts

Social and human rights impacts

The project could have severe impacts:

- on the region's drinking water reservoir, Yenice-Gönen streamlet, only 2 kilometers away from the project area;
- on 28,606 ares of arable land on which more than 10,000 people are dependent;
- on eco-tourism, as the area hosts thousands of local and international tourists every year visiting Mount Ida national park, which is known for its oxygen sources and biodiversity.

Health and pollution [impacts](#):

- As the project's Environmental Impact Assessment acknowledges, the lignite to be extracted and used for the power plant is quite low-rank (1,080 calories) with a high level of ash (53%). As lignite has a much lower energy potential than hard coal, three times more lignite is needed to be combusted for the same amount of electricity production. For this reason, more pollutants get emitted by a lignite power plant than a hard coal plant. Turkish lignite has low caloric value and high levels of ash, humidity and sulphur; thus, it causes more air pollution;
- Moreover, [recent studies](#) clearly demonstrate that the cumulative impact of planned coal power plants in the Çanakkale region may cause asthma for 4,440 children and 36,000 adults.

Environmental and climate impacts

In 2010 19 coal-fired power plants were in operation in Turkey responsible for more than [a fifth of Turkey's](#) CO2 emissions. The Canakkale region in Turkey is one of the main hotspots for new coal-fired power plant developments in Turkey, with 13 projects with a total capacity of 15,000MW now proposed. This specific plant would emit three million tonnes of CO2 per year. Having more than 70 new coal power plants by 2023 in total in Turkey, as is now planned, would add 200 million tons of CO2 emissions, on top of 68.7 million tons in 2012, which would make Turkey one of the world's major emitters and a ticking climate bomb right next to the EU.

The levels of toxic particles and NO2 in the air over the entire Canakkale region and beyond would increase the risk of diseases such as stroke, lung cancer, heart and respiratory diseases in adults, as well as respiratory symptoms in children. This leads to premature deaths from these causes. SO2, NOx and dust emissions contribute to toxic particle exposure.

The project also risks the pristine environment of Mount Ida and its vast biodiversity. In 2015, local authorities in the area submitted [an application](#) to include the mountain in UNESCO's World Heritage list.

Governance

Updates

Cannakale Court decides to cancel EIA approval of Cirpilar project

Apr 24 2020

The Çanakkale Administrative Court decided in favor of Kazdağı Society for Conservation of Cultural and Natural Assets and TEMA Foundation and canceled the EIA approval decision of Ministry of Environment and Urbanization for Çırpılar CP project (Evrensel.net).

EIA process has restarted

May 30 2019

On the 30th of May 2019, the Çanakkale Provincial Directorate of Urbanization and Environment announced that the EIA process for the Cirpilar coal project has restarted, according to the application from KİAŞ - a subsidiary of Turkish Coal Enterprises-TKİ ([Cannakale.csb.gov.tr](#)).

CSOs file lawsuit

Oct 22 2018

Kazdađı Society for Conservation of Cultural and Natural Assets, TEMA Foundation, Agriculture Engineers Chamber filed a lawsuit against the decision of the court, supported many NGOs and chambers such as Right to Clean Air Platform, İda Solidarity Association, Green Yenice Association and Yuva Association. In October 2018 the Çanakkale Administrative Court decided on the suspension of execution and ordered a repeat of the investigation by experts for the EIA after the lawsuits from local and international NGOs and platforms (Sozcu.com.tr).

Environmental Impact Assessment approved

Jun 29 2018

After investigation and evaluation meeting, against all the opposition of local platforms, NGOs and deputies, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization approved and accepted the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as final at 29th of June 2018 (Cannakaleolay.com).