

Emba Hunutlu coal power plant Turkey

Sectors: Coal Electric Power Generation

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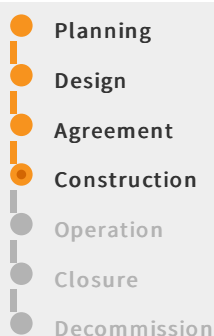
Status



Sectors Coal Electric Power Generation

Location

Status



Website <http://embapower.com/#project>

About Emba Hunutlu coal power plant

The Emba Hunutlu project is a planned 1,320MW coal power plant in Yumurtalik, at the Iskenderun Bay area, district of Adana in Turkey. The project received its permit in 2015, the first phase of operation is planned for the end of 2021. However, the project is still struggling to secure all funding. The project's sponsor, Emba Electricity Production, is a joint venture between China's Shanghai Electric Power (78.21%), Avic-International Project Engineering Company (2.99%), and two private persons: Mete Bülgün, CEO of the EMBA Electricity Production Company (9.4%), and Adnan Demir (9.4%). The project is expected to cost USD 1.7 billion and is [announced as](#) China's largest direct investment in Turkey.

Latest developments

Expert report related to lawsuits against port and plant construction published

Feb 17 2020

Construction of the Emba Hunutlu coal power plant has started

May 31 2019

Why this profile?

The Emba Hunutlu coal power plant is planned at a biodiversity protection zone and faces local and national opposition due to its pollution,

health, environmental, and climate impacts.

What must happen

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 the Emba Hunutlu coal power project.

Impacts

Social and human rights impacts

Iskenderun Bay in the south-east Mediterranean region of Turkey is a highly populated area with metropolitan cities such as Adana, Mersin and Hatay. The total population of the Cukurova Region with all four provinces is almost six million. The region is expected to grow from migration from within Turkey and Syria. The region also hosts seasonal agricultural workers. The major economic activity is agriculture, due to the optimum climate conditions, geographical features, soil fertility, and irrigation opportunities.

6.8% of [Turkey's total added value](#) of the agricultural sector comes from Adana and Mersin's agricultural production, and the Erzin district of Hatay is home to 20% of the citrus production of the entire country. However, the area is getting more and more polluted due to heavy industrial infrastructure projects. Any new coal projects to operate in Iskenderun Bay, including Emba Hunutlu, will have a major impact on the primary agricultural activity of the local communities.

Environmental and climate impacts

Over its projected life span the Emba Hunutlu coal power plant would be responsible for [emitting about 207.44 million](#) tonnes of CO₂. [Studies](#) on heavy metal contents of soil, water and animals in the larger Iskenderun Bay region have given adequate evidence to conclude that the region has already serious pollution burden due to industrial and agricultural activities. If new coal power plants are built as planned, this would add to this environmental impact and associated burden of disease in the region.

Biodiversity protection The area where the Hunutlu power plant is planned in Yumurtalik is a biodiversity hotspot with reproduction zones of marine turtles which are protected by international conventions. The area is internationally protected by the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) to which both China and Turkey are parties, as well as the Bern Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979), especially regarding preservation of *Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas* reproduction areas and population. The site is protected by the circular of 2009/10 on the protection of sea turtles. The project poses severe risks to these protected species not only via coal shipments and delivery, but also its cooling water discharges.

Air pollution In June 2020, [CREA](#) (Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air) released a [report](#) about the air quality and health impacts of the proposed EMBA Hunutlu coal power plant. When operational, the Hunutlu plant would together with already operating coal power plants in the area, put 100,000 people in the Iskenderun Bay area at risk of pollution concentrations exceeding the WHO guidelines. The EMBA Hunutlu plant is projected to cause 2,000 air-pollution related deaths over its 40-year lifetime. Other projected health impacts from the report include 15,8 million sick days, 1,9 million lost working days, 240,000 days of asthmatic and bronchitic symptoms in children and 10,000 hospital admissions.

Governance

Applicable norms and standards

[Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats \(Bern Convention\)](#)

[United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

Updates

Expert report related to lawsuits against port and plant construction published

Feb 17 2020

An expert investigation was published in February 2020. The featured arguments from the report say in summary:

- The construction plans for sea and land are not compatible with each other, and together these plans are contrary to the İskenderun Bay (Adana-Mersin-Hatay) Integrated Coastal Areas Plan's relevant principles;
- In the EIA reports and other reports, important topics regarding spawning grounds of sea turtles are not investigated and addressed comprehensively. There is no mention of how the sea turtles (*Caretta Caretta*) will be affected by coal-carrying ships while trying to reach spawning areas;
- In one of the reports (scientific report), there are many precautions proposed to be taken to protect the sea turtles under protection. If all of the measures are followed completely, the coal plant can be considered as not risky, but it is not realistic or possible to implement all these precautions completely.

Construction of the Emba Hunutlu coal power plant has started

May 31 2019

In May 2019, the company initiated the construction of the coal power plant project. However, it was paused in June because of the tortoise nesting season, according to the local conservation group [EKAD](#).

ESI Eurosilos receives order for large coal silos for the Emba Hunutlu coal power plant

Apr 30 2019

In April 2019, Dutch company, ESI Eurosilos, announced that it received a large order with the request for three large coal silos for the EMBA Hunutlu power plant. The first silo is agreed to be delivered at the beginning of 2020 and full delivery to be finished at the end of 2020 ([Powertechnology.com](#)).

Interventions at the second Belt and Road forum in April 2019

Apr 25 2019

Just before the second Belt and Road forum which took place in Beijing in late April, the groups HEAL, WWF Turkey, TEMA Foundation, Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe) and Eastern Mediterranean Environmental Protection Platform issued a [joint press release](#) describing the unlawful environmental and health effects of the Hunutlu project.

Meanwhile, during the second Belt and Road forum SEP issued [a statement](#), declaring: "SEP will join hands with various parties to construct the project into a clean, efficient, reliable and beautiful world-class power plant, and create a crown jewel of the power industry around the Mediterranean Sea."

Ankara court decides not to cancel Emba Hunutlu project permit

Oct 30 2018

On 30th of October 2018, the hearing of the court case by Adana Bar, Turkish Bar Associations, Medical Chamber of Adana, Agriculture and Engineers Chamber of Adana Doğu Akdeniz Çevre Dernekleri (East Mediterranean Environment Associations) was held in Ankara. Despite the expert report, which stated the harmful effects of the plant, the Ankara District Administrative Court [decided not to cancel the permit](#) of the Emba project.

Expert report confirms impacts of Emba Hunutlu coal power plant project

Jan 31 2018

In January 2018, [the expert report](#) for the court case filed by Adana Bar, Turkish Bar Associations, Medical Chamber of Adana, Agriculture and Engineers Chamber of Adana and Doğu Akdeniz Çevre Dernekleri (East Mediterranean Environment Associations) was published, acknowledging that the Emba Hunutlu coal power plant would harm the public health and agricultural production in the area.

TEMA files lawsuit

Jul 31 2017

In July 2017, TEMA (Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation, and the Protection of Natural Habitats) filed a lawsuit to cancel the urban plan revisions of the Emba Hunutlu project, granting the permission to build the coastal structures of the coal plant on biodiversity conservation grounds. TEMA objects the legality of the project's permit on a conservation site designated for internationally protected marine turtles.

Lawsuits filed against seven coal power plant projects

Jun 29 2016

In June 2016, Adana Bar, Turkish Bar Associations, Medical Chamber of Adana, Agriculture and Engineers Chamber of Adana and Doğu Akdeniz Çevre Dernekleri (East Mediterranean Environment Associations) [filed a lawsuit](#) against seven coal plant projects in the region including Emba Hunutlu.

Financiers

The project will be funded by [20% equity and 80% debt](#). The debt (USD 1.381 billion) is financed by a 15 year loan from three Chinese banks: China Development Bank, ICBC and Bank of China. See below for more details.

[Shanghai Electric Power](#) and Avic International are funded by a group of (mainly Chinese) banks. Below are listed loans and underwriting services between 2010 and 2016 to these companies.

Related companies

Project sponsor

A PHP Error was encountered

Severity: Notice

Message: Trying to get property 'title' of non-object

Filename: project/pdf.php

Line Number: 90

Backtrace:

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/views/sections/project/pdf.php

Line: 90

Function: _error_handler

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/libraries/sections/Dodgydeal.php

Line: 160

Function: view

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/application/controllers/Main.php

Line: 293

Function: content

File: /home/btwebhost/www/btci3/index.php

Line: 315

Function: require_once

Other companies

Avic International Holding Corporation China

ESI Eurosilos Netherlands

Mor Group Turkey

Shanghai Electric Power Company China