Conclusion and recommendations (ornithological part) of the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds regarding Dnipro-Buzka wind farm construction project in Kherson region, Ukraine

Dnipro-Buzka wind farm construction site is located on the territory of Oleksandrivska village council of Bilozersky district of Kherson region, capacity – up to 110 megawatt. Monitoring was held during August 2016-Agust 2017; cadaster materials and ornithological data (2000-2015) were used.

The site is located in the Dnipro and Bug Rivers migration corridor and bird wintering area. The bird migration activity is weak and bird biodiversity is rather poor here.

The key waterbird areas are the shallow waters of Bug estuary and Solonets Lake. These species migrate on the levels lower than construction sites and wind farms. Birds do not fly to the central part of the construction site.

The construction site is not the mass geese wintering area of the South of Ukraine; therefore, there is no large gathering of these birds in winter here. The landscape and winds form unfavorable conditions for this (except shallow waters of Bug estuary and Solonets Lake).

In the construction area there are 13 bird species listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (2009). During the observations, there were no mass gathering of the birds during nesting and pre-migration periods. The likely negative impact of wind turbines on these birds is low due to the small number of birds.

Conclusions:

The Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds considers possible the construction of Dnipro-Buzka wind farm on the territory of Oleksandrivska village council of Bilozersky district of Kherson region if following requirements will be met:

1. The border of the construction site should be on the distance at least 0,5 km from the coast of Bug estuary and water area and part of the upper Solonets Lake biotope;
2. Construction roads should use minimum territory, field roads should be used, if possible;
3. Prevention and compensation measures that mitigate the impact of wind farms on birds should be developed with the participation of relevant experts, local communities and nature protection agencies.

Recommendations (advisable actions):

1. Strengthening of the national econet supporting the protected areas within the 15 km range from the Dnipro-Buzka wind farm;
2. Implementation of sustainable agriculture;
3. Implementation of biotechnical activities for wetlands’ nesting capacity and seeding fields adjacent to the wind farm by crops attractive for birds (rape, maize);
4. Hunting restrictions on the Dnipro-Buzka wind farm territory;
5. 3-year monitoring of birds on the Dnipro-Buzka wind farm territory and adjacent area (5 km range).