



Improvement of the existing grid in La Rioja

The Network Development Plan with a 2026 horizon has been approved to drive a greener future for Spain

- The Network Development Plan 2021-2026 is a key instrument for developing the electricity infrastructure needed to continue guaranteeing the security of supply in addition to promoting the energy transition process nationwide to ensure that renewable energy will account for 67% of the national electricity generation mix by 2026.
- The drafting of the Plan has followed a rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure to ensure it is sustainable and environmentally friendly.
- The projects included in the Plan will contribute to achieving significant efficiencies and savings for the system as a whole, more than 1.6 billion euros per year. In addition, the investments will help boost Spain's recovery from the crisis.
- The Plan for La Rioja will improve the existing grid to guarantee the security of the electricity supply and promote the integration of renewable energy without the need to build new infrastructure.

Logroño, 22 March 2022

The Network Development Plan 2021-2026, which is binding for Red Eléctrica, has been given the green light after having been approved today by the Spanish Government following its presentation in the Spanish Congress of Deputies. With an investment of 6,964 million euros, this new Plan is a strategic instrument through which the necessary infrastructure will be developed so that Spain may continue to enjoy an electricity supply with high levels of quality and will allow further progress to be made in the decarbonisation of its energy model and in its fight against climate change.

In this regard, the actions included within the Plan will size and prepare the transmission grid in the coming years to be able to connect and integrate a higher share of renewable energy generation in line with the pace set by Spain's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and make it available to consumers. Thanks to the development of this infrastructure, it is estimated that in 2026 renewable energy will reach a share of 67% in the national electricity generation mix and will enable CO₂ eq emissions to be reduced by 66% compared to those recorded in 2019 (the year before the pandemic), provided that the NECP forecasts and the full implementation of this Plan are met. Similarly, the projects included in the Plan, will contribute to achieving significant efficiencies and savings for the system as a whole, more than 1.6 billion euros per year. In addition, the investments will help boost Spain's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

The planning process followed a rigorous Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure to ensure it is sustainable and environmentally friendly. It should be noted that the Plan took into account the environmental and territorial conditioning factors and has prioritised these aspects in the final design. Furthermore, the Network Development Plan 2021-2026 includes making greater use of the existing transmission grid, thus avoiding those areas that are most environmentally sensitive and reducing those actions that may have an impact on the territory.



In fact, only 13% of all renewable generation expected to be connected by 2026 will require new transmission substations.

The Network Development Plan for the La Rioja contemplates actions that will significantly improve the region's existing grid, guaranteeing both the security of the electricity supply and the integration of renewable energy, without the need to build new infrastructure.

Increased use of the transmission grid of the Ebro axes

One of the noteworthy projects included in the new Plan for La Rioja encompass those actions that will enable to increase the use of the Ebro axis transmission grid by increasing the power capacity of the 400 kilovolt (kV) Barcina-Santa Engracia-La Serna line, which will provide it with more electrical energy transmission capacity. The Plan also foresees the installation of dynamic line rating (DLR) systems on the 220 kV Logroño-El Sequero line, which will allow meteorological conditions to be monitored in real-time and enable the transmission capacity of the line to be precisely adjusted to such conditions, and as a result, if deemed necessary, increase transmission capacity with regard to the existing values at each moment.

With these actions, the Ebro axes will be able to carry a greater flow of energy safely, avoiding over voltage which, when it occurs, requires that production be adjusted, which at times means curtailing part of the renewable generation.

The new Plan also contemplates other complementary actions, such as the enlargement of existing substations to be able to evacuate and manage new renewable generation. This is the case of the 220 kV Haro, the 220 kV El Sequero and the Santa 400 kV and 220 kV Engracia substations.

All of these actions will help drive the green transition process in La Rioja and facilitate the economic, industrial and social development of the region by guaranteeing a reliable and sustainable electricity supply.

A Plan conceived by all for society as a whole

This Network Development Plan is the result of the responsible and collective efforts of all stakeholders. The public administrations and the different agents of civil society have participated in its preparation, working together with a common goal: to build, together, a useful and valuable transmission grid for everyone. For the first time, the consultation process has been open to all citizens, companies and public administrations, whose high level of participation has demonstrated the enormous interest of society as a whole in the energy transition process.

- **More information at** <https://www.planificacionelectrica.es/>