



October 7, 2019

Honorable Madame Marieme Bekaye
Ministre de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable
Nouakchott, Mauritanie

Dear Madame Bekaye:

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) is proposing to issue insurance to the Nouakchott Container Terminal Project to support the development, construction, and operation of a new container and oil terminal south of the city of Nouakchott, Mauritania. The Project is located in the existing Port of Nouakchott, which handles containers, bulk, and tankers. Specifically, the Project will entail:

- Construction of a 570-meter main berth, a 7.2 ha container yard, and extension of the existing breakwater by ~100 meters;
- Capital dredging to expand/deepen the existing navigation channel and port basin to -15.7 meters depth. Total volume of dredged material is expected to be ~ 5.2 million m³, and the dredged material will be disposed of at sea;
- Demolition of the existing oil jetty and pipelines, and provision of three new oil pipelines and one gas pipeline (total length of ~500 meters);
- Connection to the national water supply and telecommunication networks, and construction of back-up diesel generators;
- Construction of a ~5km 15 kV underground cable (running along an existing road) to connect the project to a new substation located to the north of the Project, substation equipment and building, and cabling from substation to the port equipment/facilities/buildings; and
- Construction of other facilities, including an administration building, control room, workshop building, sanitary and rest area building, fencing, upgrading of existing warehouses, parking area, empty container yard (3.5 ha), port navigation lights, weighbridge, reefer gantry, wastewater treatment plant, hazardous material and waste storage facility, and a worker accommodation camp.

OPIC is an agency of the United States Government with a mandate to encourage and support U.S. private sector investments in developing countries and emerging economies. All OPIC-supported projects must be economically and environmentally sound. OPIC is required by U.S. law to notify appropriate governmental authorities of investments under consideration for OPIC assistance that have the potential to pose significant consequences for the environment.



OPIC also is required by U.S. law to provide your government with information about standards and guidelines that have been developed by international organizations and by federal environmental regulatory authorities of the United States that are applicable to such investments. OPIC applies guidelines and standards established by the World Bank Group and other similar international organizations. The web site links to these relevant guidelines are attached to this letter.

According to the documentation submitted by the Project, the key areas of environmental and social concern are characterization and disposal of dredged material, water quality, occupational health and safety, and emergency preparedness and response.

Our analysis confirms that the Nouakchott Container Terminal Project has been designed to minimize social and environmental impacts. The facility will use internationally accepted environmental management practices to mitigate potential impacts to acceptable levels. Based on information provided to OPIC, the Project does not appear to pose significant hazards to the environment, public health, or safety.

We understand, of course, that the project will also be subject to the laws of Mauritania with regard to protection of the environment, public health, and safety.

If you have any questions about OPIC's environmental and social assessment of this project, you may contact Mary Boomgard, Managing Director, Environmental Impact Analysis Group, at the above address or at Mary.Boomgard@opic.gov.

Respectfully yours,

Anne Lesser
Acting Vice President for Investment Policy, OPIC

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Applicable U.S. and International Standards and Guidelines

- (1) The International Finance Corporation's 2012 Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability:
http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/c8f524004a73daeca09afdf998895a12/IFC_Performance_Standards.pdf?MOD=AJPERES
- (2) The International Finance Corporation's Environmental, Health, and Safety General Guidelines (April 30, 2007):
<http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/554e8d80488658e4b76af76a6515bb18/Final%2B-%2BGeneral%2BEHS%2BGuidelines.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>
- (3) The International Finance Corporation's Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Ports, Harbors, and Terminals (April 30, 2007):
<http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/9e558c00488556ebbf4fa6a6515bb18/Final%2B-%2BPorts%252C%2BHarbors%2Band%2BTerminals.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&id=1323152828015>
- (4) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Evaluation of Dredged Material Proposed for Ocean Disposal:
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/green_book.pdf
- (5) The OSPAR Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material
<https://dredging.org/documents/ceda/downloads/environment-ospar-dmguidelines.pdf>
- (6) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): <https://www.epa.gov/npdes>
- (7) Clean Air Act: <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-air-act>