

Solar thermal energy andorra city

Endesa has submitted a project to build a 50-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic power station on the site of the Andorra thermal power station in the province of Teruel to Aragon's Department of Industry, Competitiveness and Business Development.

This is the first of several projects in the Futur-e plan to replace the thermal power station with renewable power in the vicinity of the Andorra power plant, the ultimate aim of which is to install 1,725 MW of power, 1,585 MW from photovoltaic plants and 140 MW from wind farms. An additional 160 megawatts of battery storage will also be installed. The three-phase project will conclude in 2026.

The first phase, which will begin in January 2021 and end in early 2022, involves the construction of a 50 MW photovoltaic park (submitted for administrative processing), to be built within the perimeter of the current thermal power plant, and the construction of a 49.4 MW wind farm, to be installed in the municipality of Ejulve.

The second phase will add 235 megawatts of photovoltaic solar energy and 54.3 MW of battery storage, largely installed within the perimeter of the existing thermal power plant. The work will take 15 months between March 2022 and June 2023.

Endesa already has a connection point for the first two phases, while the third phase - 1,390 megawatts - depends on an allocation by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition of the evacuation capacity of the Andorra thermal power plant. For this to happen, the Fair Transition Agreement needs to be signed, so that the CNMC can authorise the decommissioning of the existing thermal power plant and pave the way for the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge to authorise the power.

During the third and final phase, which are scheduled to begin in May 2023 and end in early 2026, 1,300 MW of photovoltaic power, 90 MW of wind power and 105 MW of battery storage are scheduled to be built. The facilities associated with these phases are planned to be built on land in the municipalities of Andorra, Alcorisa, Alcañiz, Calanda and Huesca.

On 19 December 2018, Endesa submitted a formal request to close the Andorra thermal power plant, in Teruel, and the Compostilla plant, in León, in accordance with the company's updated Strategic Plan and in line with national energy policy goals announced by the Ministry for Ecological Transition to achieve a fully decarbonised energy system by 2050. In addition to these applications, in December 2019 the company sought permission to close down the thermal power stations in As Pontes (A Coruña) and Carboneras (Almería).

As well as seeking permission to decommission these plants, Endesa has voluntarily prepared and submitted an action plan for each plant to mitigate the impact caused by the slow-down in activity. Called the Futur-e

Plan, which promotes the development of economic activities and job creation in the local areas of both plants as part of the Fair Transition model. The company has stressed that these proposals are flexible and open to taking on board new viable initiatives going forward to achieve these development goals in the areas where the plants are located, thereby adding its efforts to the initiatives and leadership of the Public Administration bodies involved.

The Futur-e Plan for the Andorran thermal power plant was presented at the Climate Change Summit in Madrid in December, as an example of the Fair Transition.

According to the company, the Futur-e Plan for Andorra envisages keeping the 153 Endesa employees of the plant on the workforce and gives top priority to hiring workers from existing auxiliary companies to work on the plant closure and dismantling activities which will may take anything from four to six years, and which will create around 130 jobs with up to 200 workers employed at peak times.

Plant employees are being given personal attention and offered relocation packages according to their areas of expertise, always considering geographical proximity to their current workplace. So far, 22 workers have been relocated and it is expected they will be joined by a further 70. The remainder will join the plant dismantling crews.

Contractors' workers will be invited to take training courses to take part in the works and may be hired to work on the new renewable facilities the company is building in the area.

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