

# Speeding-up permitting for grid development

**Corrado Gadaleta**

*Power System Planning and Permitting*

*Interconnections, System Efficiency and Sustainability*

**Giuseppe Bonavita**

*Strategic environment assessment*

*10th CIGRE SEERC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)*

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# Energy transition targets in EU

Permitting has a key role to achieve EU's targets for reducing fossil fuels and climate neutrality



**-55% GHG emissions vs 1990 levels**  
**40% RES share in energy consumption within 2030**  
**Climate neutrality within 2050**



**-40% GHG emissions vs 1990 levels**  
**32% RES share in energy consumption**  
**32,5% energy efficiency**



Extraordinary measures to make EU independent from Russia:  
**45% RES share in energy consumption**  
**300 bln€ of investments**



**-62% GHG emissions for the ETS sectors vs 2005 levels**  
**65% RES share in energy consumption**



**-20% GHG emission vs 1990 levels**  
**20% RES share in energy consumption**  
**20% energy efficiency**

EU released **Recommendations, Regulations and Directives** aimed to **simplify permitting processes**. The measures proposed are mainly directed on:

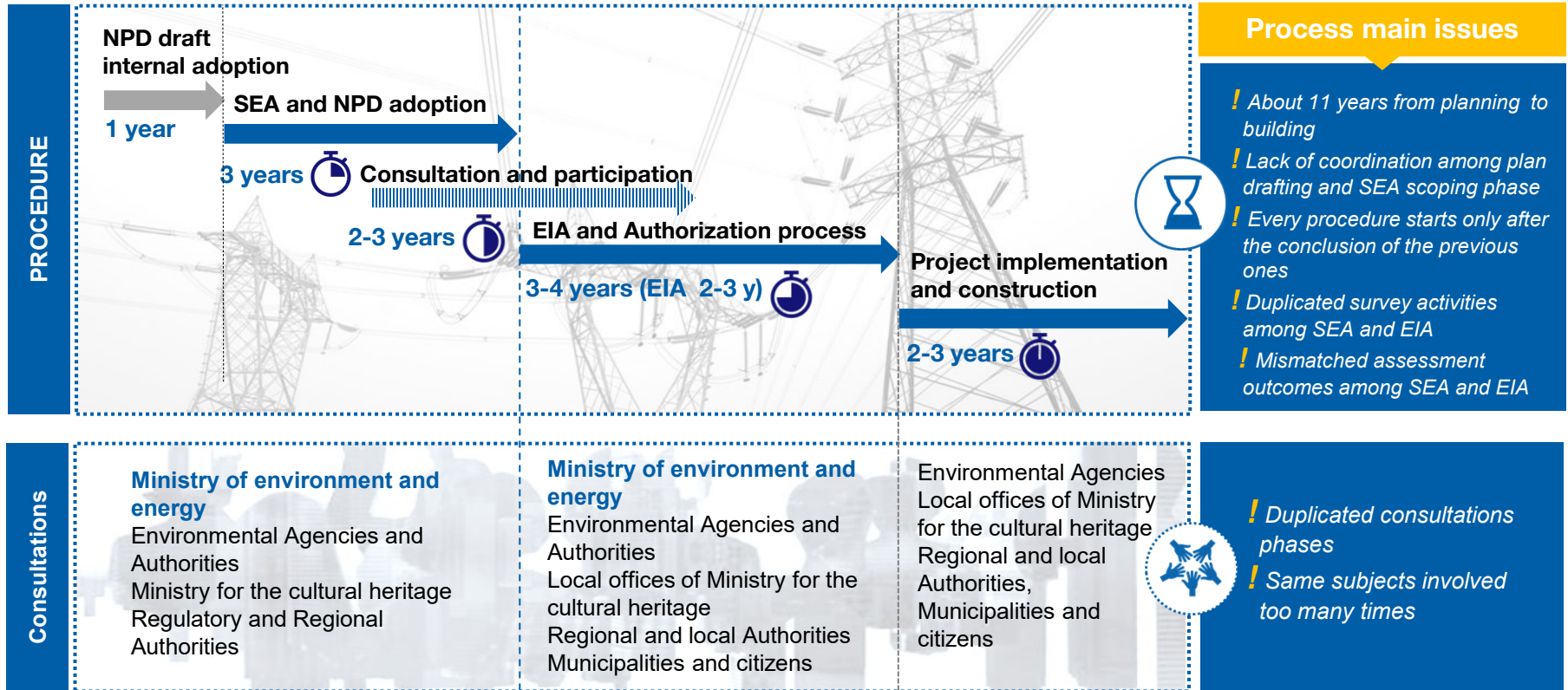
- Removal of administrative obstacles
- Fix a clear time framework for permitting processes
- Detect types of interventions to deregulate
- Streamline and empower effectiveness of participation
- Address PPAs to speed-up permit granting
- Avoid duplicate procedures and assessments
- Promote planning for suitable areas for renewables, grid development, storage plants.

- ✓ *Recommendation and guidance document on permit-granting processes and PPAs*
- ✓ *Guidance to EU countries on good practices to speed-up permit-granting procedures and Power Purchase Agreements*
- ✓ *Dir (EU) 2018/2001 of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources*
- ✓ *Reg (EU) 2022/869 of 30 May 2022 on Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure*
- ✓ *Reg (EU) 2022/2577 of 22 December 2022 laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy*
- ✓ *Commission Recommendation of 13.5.2024 on speeding up permit-granting procedures for renewable energy and related infrastructure projects {SWD(2024) 124 final} - {SWD(2024) 333 final}*
- ✓ *Commission staff working document - Guidance on designating renewables acceleration areas {C(2024) 2660 final} - {SWD(2024) 333 final}*



# From the planning to the construction of Grid development projects in Italy

Focus on permitting steps: What was before the adoption of new legislative packages?



# Beyond the transposition of new legislative packages

Activities implemented by Terna for speeding-up permitting

## Procedure surveying

- Analysis of needs for the identification of regulatory changes to implement for the simplification/acceleration of the processes
- Bottlenecks
- Overlapping and duplicate steps or requirements
- Exceeding timings or down times
- Permitting effort compared to the complexity of intervention

## Process management optimization

- Better coordination of proceedings and activities
- Permit strategy to take advantages of new legislative packages (deregulations, speeding up)
- Intern early-stage assessment of interventions (permitting, timing and environment feasibility, social acceptance)



## Advocacy vs Authorities

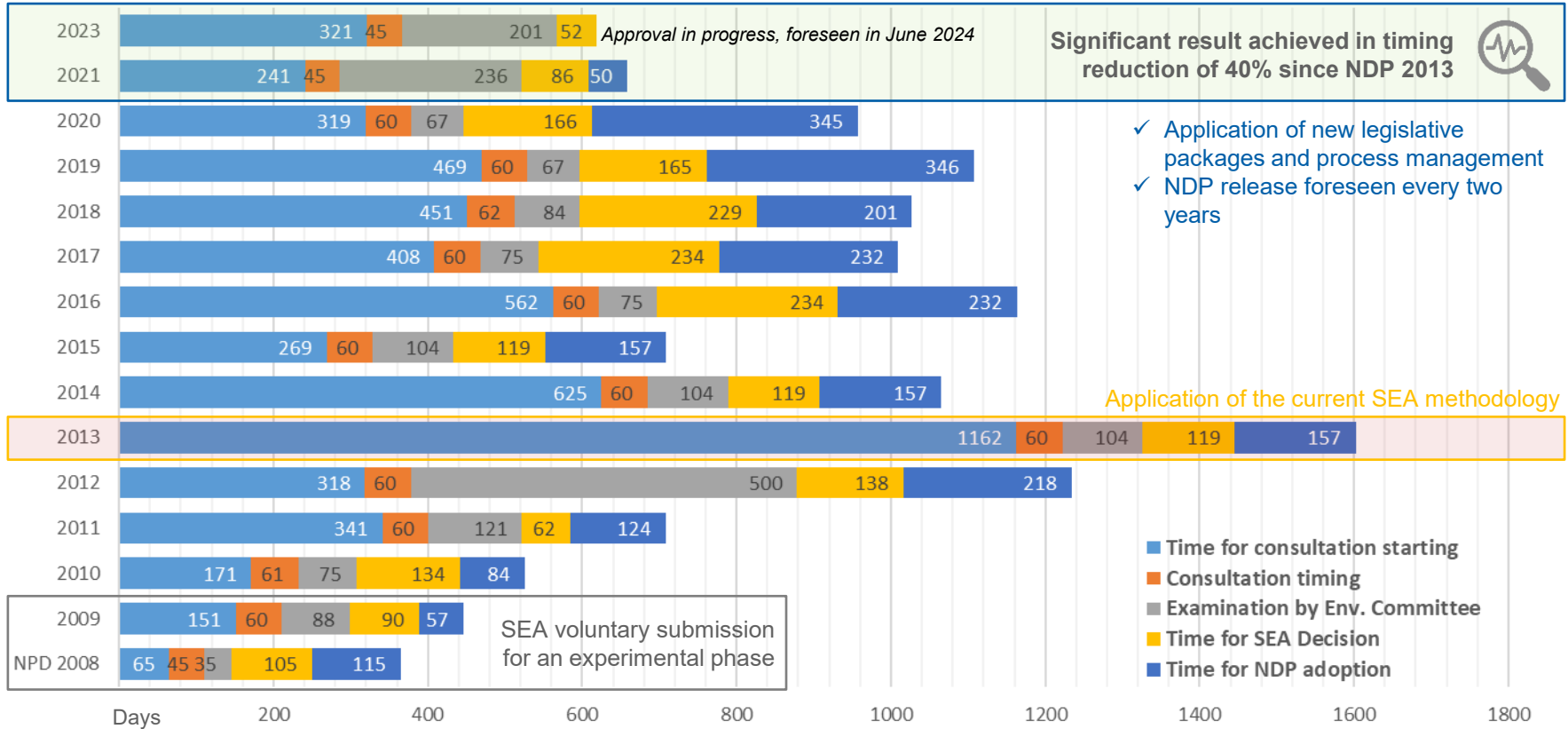
- Identification of future regulatory paths for further simplification proposals
- Participation and technical contribution to government bodies in the development of new regulatory proposals
- Monitoring of the legislative process underway
- Positioning of the Company on permitting issues and troubles

## Preliminary engagement and follow-up

- Technical board with competent Authorities
- Open channel with competent Ministry during authorization procedures
- Presentation to the Authorities of new Plans and interventions
- Relational continuity with Ministry and environmental assessment committee, about innovations, integrations needs, troubles

# Timing insights for NDPs adoption

## Time series trends for the conclusion of SEA and Plan adoption process





## Main streamlining objectives at planning level

- ❑ Reducing number Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) procedures
- ❑ Cutting SEA conclusion timing and NDP adoption timing
- ❑ Decoupling Plan adoption timing from grid projects approval timing
- ❑ Speed-up the development of grid

- ✅ **NDP must be presented every two years**
- ✅ **Fixed maximum deadline for NDP adoption procedure in 180 day**  
(from the submission of the complete NDP to the Authorities)
- ✅ **Possibility to submit for authorization some types of grid projects and interventions (NECPs\* compliant) before NDP adoption**
- ✅ **Cutting of each step deadline of the SEA procedure**



Measures provided in the adopted new legislative packages

**Before latest legislative packages / Average timing for NDP adoption = 3 years**

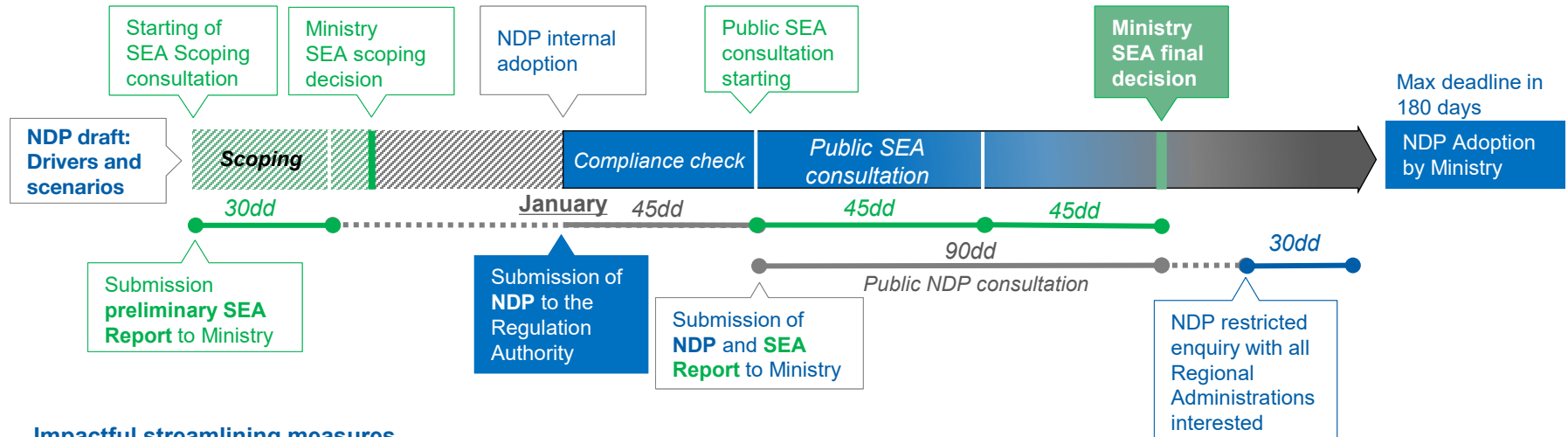
**After / Average timing for NDP adoption = 1,5 years**

# Timeline process for SEA and NDP adoption according to the new law timeframe

## Current management of NDP adoption process

### SEA Report is drafted to be a key part of National Development Plan (NDP)

- ✓ Better integration of sustainability targets and public requests in assessment of potential effects in territories interested by grid development needs
- ✓ The SEA procedure and the path for the plan adoption is now overlapped in timings and steps



### Impactful streamlining measures

- ✓ Reduced deadlines of all SEA steps (from 60 to 45 days)
- ✓ Fixed deadline for NDP adoption: 180 days
- ✓ Possibility to submit some interventions to the Authorization process, before Plan adoption



## Main streamlining objectives at project level

- Reduce the number of authorization procedures
- Increase the use of faster and simplified authorizations procedures
- Speed up the delivery of interventions

- ✓ **Presumption of overriding public interest for grid development and renewable energy projects**
- ✓ **Transposition in Italian law of Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 – possibility, for those grid projects included in Plans with concluded SEA, to be excluded from EIA**
- ✓ **Detection of many subtypes of grid actions to address towards a simple Notification of Work Commencement Certified (DILA)**
- ✓ **Detection of many types or subtypes of grid interventions excluded from EIA field**



Measures provided in the adopted new legislative packages

**Before latest legislative packages / Average timing for EIA and Authorization = 5 years**

**After / Average timing without EIA = 2 years of potential savings / Notification (DILA) = Direct**



# Case study: SEA methodology for NDP 2023 assessment

Application of the new legislative packages for streamline assessment and permitting process of Hypergrid projects

## NDP strategy

- Promote energy transition and RES integration
- Limit soil consumption
- Reuse of existing assets
- Reuse of industrial areas
- Avoid the modification of further landscapes

## SEA approach

Address the implementation of NDP to detect the best sustainability solutions for a wide reconstruction of existing grid assets, providing a deep assessment of potential impacts. Create the best conditions for speeding-up permitting of HG projects

Reuse and upgrading of existing assets to improve transmission capacity

Actions for Hypergrid project :  
Rebuilding existing backbones with conversion in DC alongside existing lines

Detection of specific survey corridor for SEA characterization and environment assessment

## Streamline package of Italian law

Rebuilding the lines in a range of 60 m from the side of existing tracks, is now subjected to a simple Notification (less time spending), bypassing so the single authorization procedure



## Reg. EU 2022\_2577 (framework to accelerate the deployment of RES)

Possibility to exclude grid projects included in NDP with concluded SEA, from EIA. In SEA is analyzed a larger buffer area of 1 km from each side of existing track to add more flexibility in case of alternative track shift (design phase).



 HVDC marini
  Ammodernamento AC/DC
  Ammodernamento AC

# Forthcoming measures for speeding-up permitting

## What's going on: Transposition of Renewable energy directive - RED III

In Italy, the previous Directive RED II is transposed as legislative Decree: It state each Region must identify suitable areas for RES deployment, in detail

In the meantime (Regional executive decrees not yet issued), Legislation allows to consider as suitable areas the followings:

- artificial and built surfaces (PV only)
- transport infrastructure and their direct surroundings (PV only)
- waste sites, industrial sites, decommissioned mines, degraded land
- Existing renewable plant sites also with possibility for limited increasing (20%)

Incoming legislative packages to streamline authorization processes and timings:

- eliminate unnecessary administrative burdens
- deregulate small deployments, variations and repowering of existing plants
- limit the application of certain landscape constraints

*The revised Directive entered into force in November 2023.*

*There will be an 18-month period to transpose most of the directive's provisions into national law, with a shorter deadline of July 2024 for some provisions related to permitting for renewables.*

### Key facts



**Global leader**

EU leads technology development in renewables

**21.8%**

share of renewables in EU energy consumption 2021

**at least 42.5%**

the new binding renewable energy target for 2030

### RED III Relevant measures for grid and renewables

**Increase the renewable energy to 42,5% for further uptake of renewables and easier and faster approval procedures**

**Designate specific land and sea areas as renewables acceleration areas for the purpose of developing renewables, giving priority to artificial and built surfaces, transport infrastructure, waste sites, industrial sites, decommissioned mines, as well as degraded land**

- Deadline for approval procedures, not over 12 months in renewables acceleration areas
- Not over 24 months in other areas
- Overriding public interest and serving public health and safety of renewable energy plants and their related infrastructure

# Authorization framework for grid development actions

## Overview of current permitting procedures

TSO action types for the development of power grid	Constraints	Environment assessment	Type of Authorization
<b>New power stations</b>		No	Single authorization* (AU)
<b>Internal development of existing power stations</b>	Up to 30% volume increase for non-machine buildings	No	Notification (DILA)
<b>New overhead powerlines</b>	Over 10 km length	EIA	Single authorization (AU)
<b>New overhead powerlines / Reconstruction and upgrading of existing lines for the integration of renewable energy into the electricity system</b>	If included in NDP with SEA concluded. If rebuild within 60 m from existing track line	No	Notification (DILA)
<b>Reconstruction of existing powerlines</b>	If are kept the same operating features of existing	No	Notification (DILA)
<b>Replacing existing overhead powerlines with new underground cables</b>	Within 60 m from existing track line or track shift within 3 km	No	Notification (DILA)
<b>New powerlines underground cable</b>		No	Single authorization (AU)
<b>New powerlines undersea cable</b>		Authorization to modify seabed	Single authorization (AU)
<b>Powerlines maintenance and retrofiting</b>	If are kept the same operating features of existing	No	Notification (DILA)
<b>Powerlines reconstruction or upgrading</b>	If foreseen operating variations Over 60 m from existing track line	EIA	Single authorization (AU)

# Authorization framework for renewable plants deployment



## Authorization streamline for PV

New plants, repowering or rebuilding in the same site

No authorization for PV up to 20 MW in industrial areas, dismissed mines, waste lands

No authorizations requested for agri-PV deployment

New plants are permitted up to 500m buffer zone from bounded sites

New plants, repowering

No Authorization for new deployments, or revamping of existing up to 20 kW

Offshore plants

New plants permitted up to 3 km buffer zone from protected landscape sites

New storage in power plant sites, industrial areas, dismissed mines



## Authorization streamline for Wind Farm



## Authorization streamline for BESS

➤ **Since May 2024 - in areas classified for agricultural uses will be admitted only agri-PV plants**

➤ **Up to 1 MW** = Notification (DILA)

➤ **From 1 MW up to 10 MW** = Enabling Procedure (PAS)

➤ **Over 20 MW** = EIA and Single Authorization (AU)

➤ If in development areas as detected in plans submitted to SEA concluded = no EIA

➤ **Up to 30 MW** = Regional Single Authorization + screening EIA (PAUR)

➤ **Over 30 MW** = EIA and Single Authorization (AU)

➤ **Up to 50 MW**, in development areas as detected in Marine Space Management Plan and other plans submitted to SEA = AU only, no EIA

➤ No authorization for BESS connected to power plant **up to 10 MW**

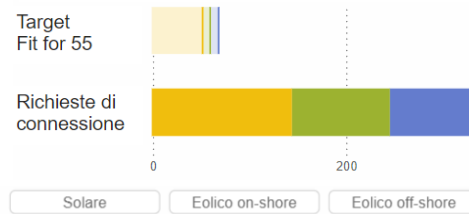
➤ Enabling Procedure (PAS) no EIA

## Deregulation outcomes

RES 2030 target for Italy

**+ 70 GW** from 2019

Richieste di connessione e target Fit for 55 (GW)



Connection requests

**336 GW (+ 266 GW)**

Richieste di connessione / FF55 (31/03/2024)

**336.38 / 69.89 GW**

● 144.84 / 53.69 GW

● 101.14 / 7.70 GW

● 90.41 / 8.50 GW

*Thank you for your attention*



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# Backup

## Single Authorization (AU)

### Reference Legislation

- ❑ D.lgs. 387/2003 - Art. 12
- ❑ D.lgs. 28/2011 - Art. 5
- ❑ D.M. 10.9.2010 (Guidelines)

- **"Single authorization" means an authorization involving different customs administrations\*** (EU's definition)
- Release of the EIA, if required, is a necessary condition of the authorization procedure and, in case of modification of the project, concerns only the examination of variations
- **Deadline of the procedure completion: 90 days**, besides the VIA procedure (if requested), unless prior screening\*\*

### Object

- Projects consisting in construction, upgrading, total or partial reconstruction and reactivation of existing power plants and relevant variations - related works

## Notification of Work Commencement Certified (DILA)

### Reference Legislation

- ❑ Guidelines - Par. 11 e 12
- ❑ D.lgs. n. 28/2011 - Art. 6 bis

- Procedure introduced by the **D.L. Simplifications 2020** for **some types of projects regarding existing plants and amendments of authorized** projects deemed low/zero environmental impact and without urban effects - no environmental and landscape assessments
- Statement, including a report signed by a qualified designer and project documents, attesting the compliance of safety, anti-seismic and hygiene standards
- **Commencement of work is immediately possible** without waiting for the 30 days from the declaration to the Municipality

**PV power plant (ground modules):** projects that, even with the replacement of modules and other components and by changing the layout of the plant, involve a change in service volumes up to 15% and a change in the maximum height from the ground up to 20%

### D.L. Energy – Projects subject to DILA:

- Projects with non-relevant modification of the plant and with increase in installed capacity; further related works do not increase the area already occupied
- New PV plants <1 MW (including related works) and upgrading/ rebuilding/ integral reconstruction in suitable areas, not subject to protection and beyond urban centers which do not require expropriation procedures



## Legend

**Conferenza dei Servizi (CdS)** = meeting of regional authorities

## Enabling Simplified Procedure (PAS)

### Reference Legislation

- ❑ Guidelines- Par. 11 e 12
- ❑ D.lgs. 28/2011 - Art. 6

- Statement including a report, signed by a licensed designer, and project reports attesting the compatibility of the project with urban planning tools, building regulations and compliance with safety and hygiene standards. **The technical connection documents, drawn up by the Network Manager, are attached.**
- Environmental procedures remain firm
- **Silence equal-assent system:** it is possible to have the start of works after 30 days from the statement without having received any feedback from the Municipality (order not to carry out the intended projects has to be motivated)

### Object

- Projects consisting in the construction of power plants with not relevant amendments - related works



The Municipality can in some circumstances ask to the CdS in order to extend the timing of adoption measure of the authorization – Case study emerged in the appraisal of new initiatives (ex. batteries) regarding the Capacity Market and Fast Reserve matter

## Statement of free construction activities

### Reference Legislation

- ❑ Guidelines - Par. 11 e 12
- ❑ D.lgs. n. 28/2011 - Art. 6, comma 11

- **Simplified authorization process for some types of plants similar to free construction activities**
- **Commencement of work notification includes a report signed by a qualified designer**
- **Commencement of work is immediately possible** without waiting for the 30 days from the declaration to the Municipality



**DL Energy** - Considered as ordinary maintenance projects, not subject to any permit: construction of photovoltaic and thermal solar systems on rooftop buildings or on other structures, except for installations in areas or buildings identified as relevant public matter

### Example

**Wind power plant:** projects that, regardless of the resulting capacity, are realized in the same location of the wind farm and involve a minimum reduction in the number of wind turbines compared to those already existing or authorized