



## 1.5 Million Natural Gas Connections Project in 11 Governorates

### Site-Specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

Farshout PRS /Qena Governorate

**Executive Summary**

November 2018



**EGAS**

**Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company**

Developed by



**EcoConServ Environmental Solutions**



**Petrosafe**

**Petroleum Safety & Environmental Services  
Company**



## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFD	Agence Française de Développement (French Agency for Development)
ALARP	Stands for "As Low As Reasonably Practicable", and is a term often used in the milieu of safety-critical and safety-involved systems. The ALARP principle is that the residual risk shall be as low as reasonably practicable.
BUTAGASCO	The Egyptian Company for LPG distribution
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics
CDA	Community Development Association
CO	Carbon monoxide
CRN	Customer Reference Number
CULTNAT	Center for Documentation Of Cultural and Natural Heritage
EEAA	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
EGAS	Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company
EGP	Egyptian Pound
EHDR	Egyptian Human Development Report 2010
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ER	Executive Regulation
E&S	Environmental and Social
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESIAF	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Framework
ESM	Environmental and Social Management
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAC	governance and anticorruption
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Global Information Systems
GoE	Government of Egypt
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRM	Grievance redress mechanisms
HH	Households
HHH	Head of the Household
hr	hour
HSE	Health Safety and Environment
IBA	Important Bird Areas
IDSC	Information and Decision Support Center
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IGE/SR	Institute of Gas Engineers/Safety Recommendations
LDCs	Local Distribution Companies
LGU	Local Governmental Unit
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
mBar	milliBar
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOP	Maximum operating pressure
MP	Management Plan



MTO	Material take-off
NG	Natural Gas
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen dioxide
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
P&A	Property and Appliance Survey
PAP	Project Affected Persons
PE	Poly Ethylene
PM <sub>10</sub>	Particulate matter
PPM	Parts Per Million
PRS	Pressure Reduction Station
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SDO	Social Development Officer
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulphur dioxide
SSIAF	Supplementary Social Impact Assessment Framework
SYB	Statistical Year Book
T.S.P	Total Suspended Particulates
Town Gas	The Egyptian Company for Natural Gas Distribution for Cities
WB	The World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
\$	United States Dollars
€	Euros

Exchange Rate: US\$ = 17.96 EGP as of November, 2018

Exchange Rate: € = 20.5 EGP as of November 2018



## Executive Summary

### *Introduction*

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Aiming at installing the NG to about 6,000 clients in Farshout City, the local distribution company (LDC) ReGas will construct a new PRS in Farshout City. This ESIA is site specific for construction of a new PRS in Farshout City. The local distribution company responsible for project implementation in Farshout City is ReGas (شركة غاز الاقاليم).

The objective of the proposed project is to construct a new pressure reduction station (PRS) in order to connect the NG to wider range of clients. This will enable achieving reduction of leakage, reduction of subsidy allocated for the butane gas, and reducing dependence of imported fuel.

The ESIA is undertaken to assess and propose mitigations for environmental and social impacts of the proposed pressure reduction station (PRS) and HP pipeline in Farshout, Qena, Egypt.

The ESIA has been prepared by a Joint Venture between Petrosafe (Petroleum Safety & Environmental Services Company and EcoConServ Environmental Solutions (Cairo, Egypt) with collaboration, and facilitation from EGAS, ReGas HSE and Engineering Departments. The names of the Petrosafe and EcoConServ experts who have participated in the preparation of the ESIA study are listed in **Annex 1** of this report.

### *Project Description*

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The PRS consists of the following components: an inlet unit (isolated cathodic system), a liquid separation unit, a filtration unit, and a pressure and temperature gauge. Other components include auxiliary devices such as a safety valve (Slam Shut), relief valves, an odorizing unit, ventilation equipment, as well as diesel and jockey pumps

Utilities existing in a PRS include a control room, a firefighting system (firefighting water tank, firefighting valve), a staff bathroom, and a storage area and entrance room located adjacent to the entrance gate. The PRS for Farshout will be designed to reduce an inlet pressure in the range of 70 to 18 bar to an outlet pressure of 7 bar at a flow rate of 5,000m<sup>3</sup>/h.

The off-take from the national natural gas grid will be approximately 400 m away from the PRS location. The exact routing of the off-take from the main feed to the PRS was not available at the time of the submission of the report. The high pressure pipeline will be installed along existing roads...

Operation of the PRS involves operation of the various components outlined in the construction phase. Risks associated with those activities are further addressed separately in a Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) - (refer to annex 9. Quantitative Risk Assessment)

### *Legislative and Regulatory Framework*

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The project will adhere to the Egyptian legislations, WB operational policies and IFC performance standards.

#### **Applicable Environmental and Social Legislation in the Egypt legislations:**

- Law 217/1980 for Natural Gas
- Law 4/1994 for the environmental protection, amended by Laws 9/2009 and 105/2015. Executive Regulation(ER) No 338/1995 and the amended ER No. 1741/2005, amended with ministerial Decrees No. 1095/2011, 710/2012, 964/2015, and 26/2016
- Law 38/1967 for General Cleanliness



- Law 93/1962 for Wastewater
- Law 117/1983 for Protection of Antiquities
- Traffic Law 66/1973, amended by Law 121/2008 traffic planning
- Law 12/2003 on Labor and Workforce Safety

### **World Bank Safeguard Policies**

Three policies are triggered for the project as a whole: Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01), Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11), and Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12). However, OP/BP 4.11 will not be applicable in Farshout .

No pipelines will cross agriculture land in Farshout and accordingly no compensation will be applied .The proposed land for the construction of the PRS is state owned land. It is entirely uninhabited. Therefore, the Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12 is not applicable for the proposed project. The transfer of ownership contract is under preparation with Qena governorate authority

### **World Bank Group General Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines & WBG Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines for Gas Distribution Systems- IFC Guideline.**

The General Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHS) are designed to be used together with the relevant Industry Sector EHS guidelines, which provide guidance to users on EHS issues in specific industry sectors. Gas distribution system – Health and Safety Guideline are applicable to the project.

Gaps between requirements outlined by WBG guidelines and actions detailed by the ESIA have been analyzed. There are no significant differences between the requirements outlined by the WBG EHS guidelines on Gas distribution systems and the management and monitoring actions outlined by the ESIA.

In addition to the above mentioned safeguards policies, the Directive and Procedure on Access to Information<sup>1</sup> will be followed by the Project.

### ***Environmental and Social Baseline***

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#### **A. Environmental baseline**

Farshout City is located in the Nile Valley area of Upper Egypt and is affiliated to Qena Governorate.

- **Climate**

- Temperature

The average annual temperature is 24.3°C in Farshout city. The warmest month of the year is July, with an average temperature of 31.8 °C whereas January has the lowest average temperature at 14.5 °C.

- Rain

The average annual precipitation in the Farshout area is 0.1 (mm)

- Wind

The annual average wind speeds in the Farshout area are 11.68 (km/hr)

- Site-Specific Ambient Air Quality

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<sup>1</sup> <https://policies.worldbank.org/sites/ppf3/PPFDocuments/Forms/DispPage.aspx?docid=3694>



The concentrations of measured air pollutants are below permissible limits. All the measurements for the gaseous pollutants were complying with the maximum allowable limits according to law 4/1994 for Environment protection and its amendments by law No.9/2009 and the executive regulation issued in 1995 and its amendments no. 710 in 2012 and 964 in April 2015”.

- Site specific Noise Measurements

Noise level measurements were conducted in the same location of the ambient air quality measurements. The duration of the measurements is 8 hours with one hour averaging intervals. Baseline ambient noise levels are below the national and World Bank permissible limits.

- **Geology**

The Governorate of Qena is located in the Nile Valley area of Upper Egypt and occupies a portion of a sub-regional sedimentary basin known as the Assiut Basin. The sedimentary basin has a depth of over 3 km above the basement rocks. The basin is a portion of the western structure of the Arabian-Nubian Massif with the regional dip in the western direction.

The nature of the area extending west of the Nile Valley consists of low series of limestone separating the Eocene. On the western side of the series lies a flat plateau within the Western Sahara. Some are spread Sand accumulations lying along these chains in a low-depth crack extending in the limestone plateau.

Regarding the land environment, Farshout city has a variety of land uses including agricultural, urbanized, and cleared land plots. The project site area is mainly of a cleared land plot. HP pipelines will be installed along the existing roads whereas agricultural lands will not be interrupted.

- **Water resources**

- Surface water

The Kalabaya Canal runs parallel to the eastern bank of the Nile river for a length of 163 km and is used for the irrigation of approximately 174,515 hectares of agricultural land east of the Nile. The canal may be divided into 8 branches; one of them called Al Gabal, reaches Farshout city. The nearest surface water is 2.4 m away from the site where construction of the HP pipeline is planned. **No pipeline will cross the canal during construction and operation activities.**

- Groundwater

No site specific data on groundwater in Farshout is available. Subsurface water at depths of 2 m can be expected near the Nile River. The project site and piping route will not be along the river banks of the Nile. Therefore, groundwater at depths encountered during excavation activities, i.e., 1.2 m, is not anticipated.

- **Terrestrial environment**

The project site area is not characterized by the presence of endangered species (fauna or flora). **No natural habitats occur in the project area.**

Typical flora encountered in Farshout include *Phragmites australis* along the Al-Gabal canal branch. Palm trees and Cornulace Sp. are also encountered alongside of the roads as shown below.

**No significant flora is detected in the project area.**



Species recorded in the project site area include dogs (*Canis* sp), sparrows (small passerian sp.), cats (*Felis domestica*), and raven Black Desert (*Corvus* sp.). Grey Heron (*Ardea cinera*) is a fairly common visitor in the summer, but nesting has not been recorded. *Bufo viridis* and *Varanus niloticus* (Nile monitor) in very little numbers have been recorded in Al Gabal's canal.

**No endangered or vulnerable species were observed in the project area.**

The nearest important protected area is the Red Sea Island, located approximately 141 km North-East of Farshout and Wadi El Gemal – Hamata, located approximately 185 km to the south east.

- **Solid waste management**

The responsibility of service planning, delivery and monitoring of waste collection and disposal is delegated to the Local Administration in Farshout. Municipal solid waste is disposed in collection points located on the streets and used as open transfer systems. Waste in collection points is collected twice a day by municipal workers using waste collection trays and wheel barrows, brooms and shovels). Collected waste is transported using covered trucks<sup>2</sup> to Legal dumpsites in Qena or to Public facilities in nearby villages or within the city. Official dumpsites in Qena are located near Farshout city (26°1'38"N, 32°8'3"E)

- **Physical cultural resources**

There were no physical cultural resources in the vicinity of the PRS. However, Qena Governorate by nature is rich in its antiquities. Therefore, in case of any unanticipated archeological discoveries within the project areas; **Annex 5**, entitled 'Chance Find Procedure,' details the set of measures and procedures to be followed in such cases.

- **Traffic profile**

The City of Farshout is one of the biggest cities in Qena Governorate. It is relatively dense and overcrowded. The width of streets are usually two lanes. There are various means of transportation. Motorcycles and tuk tuks are the main type of transportation. There are also some animals that are used for transporting people.

## B. **Socio-economic Baseline**

Farshout is located in the northern part of Qena governorate, on the western bank of the Nile. It is bordered by Abou Tesht markaz to the north, and Nagaa Hamady to the south-east, and el-Gabal el-Gharby to the west.

- **Administrative affiliation**

Farshout is administratively affiliated to Qena governorate. According to the Information Center of Farshout's LGU, there are 9 villages along with Farshout City falling under the jurisdiction of Farshout markaz.

- **Demographic characteristics**

According to the Information Center of Farshout's LGU, the total population of Farshout markaz in 2016 reached 187,648 people while population of Farshout City is 65,761 people.

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<sup>2</sup> Zaki, T., Kafafi, A. G., Mounir Boushra, M., & Abdel Halim, M. A. (2013, September). Annual Report for Solid Waste in Egypt. (M. Saber, Ed.) Ministry of State of Environmental Affairs



- **Living conditions**

The average household size in Farshout City is 4 individuals, according to the Information Center of Farshout's LGU.

- **Access to basic services**

According to CAPMAS poverty mapping data of 2013, 99.1% of individuals in Farshout City use electricity for lighting. The Information Center of Farshout's LGU reports that the number of commercial subscribers to the electricity grid, in Farshout markaz, reaches 1,238 subscribers, while the number of household connected is 12,375 households.

Accessibility to water network is high in Farshout, as 98.7% of individuals have access to the public water network; and 80.2% of individuals have tap water inside their houses, according to CAPMAS poverty mapping data of 2013.

However, the coverage of the public sanitation network stands at 2%, according to CAPMAS poverty mapping 2013. The percentage to accessibility to the public sanitation network is one of the main concerns relating to the eligibility of Farshout City for connecting NG to households. Though, according the head of the engineering department at Farshout's LGU, the expansion of the sanitation network is underway that the construction of the sanitation plant is complete and the start of operation awaits the completion of pipework.

- **Human development profile**

According to CAPMAS poverty mapping 2013, the percentage of manpower which joined labor force at the age of 15 years old and above is 38.3%. Manpower, at the age of 24 years old and above, is 46.6%. The percentage of agriculture workers from total employed persons is 11.6%. The unemployment rate in Farshout stands at 15.7%.

In the same respect, female employment figures show female unemployment rate at 37.2%. The percentage of female workers who joined labor force at the age of 15 years old and above is 11.3%.

The formal Statistics obtained from the Poverty Mapping Data 2013 regarding manpower reflected that the age of starting work is 15 years old.<sup>3</sup> Both the Child Law and the Labor Law state that children shall not be employed before they complete 14 years old, nor shall they be provided with training before they reach 12 years old; however children between 12 and 14 years old are permitted to work as trainees.

- **Health facilities**

According to the Information Center of Farshout's LGU, there is one central hospital serving Farshout, in addition to 41 private medical clinics and 7 dental clinics. Additionally, there are 5 ambulance cars serving Farshout City.

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<sup>3</sup> Based on Labor law number 12 of year 2003 and The Child Law (No. 12, 1996). There are certain critical obligations to recruit children below 15 years old. Article 98-103 of Labor law put limitations related to age, type of occupation, hazards work...etc





- **Human activities in the project areas**

The size of agriculture activities is relatively slim compared to other activities. Agriculture activities absorb 11.6% of total employed individuals living inside Farshout City. According to the Information Center of Farshout's LGU, Farshout city hosts a number of small industries and crafts such as carpentry, carpets production, tiles production, leather products, foodstuffs production, in addition to blacksmith workshops.

## ***Environmental and Social Impacts***

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The environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) is a process used to identify and evaluate the significance of potential impacts on various environmental and social receptors as a result of planned activities during (construction and operation) phases of the Project. Furthermore, the analysis of environmental and social impacts is important to detail an effective management and monitoring plan which will minimize negative impacts and maximize positives.

### **A. Potential positive impacts**

- **Positive impacts during construction**

- Impacts related to employment

*Provide direct job opportunities to skilled and semi-skilled laborers*

The project is anticipated to result in creation of different job opportunities. Based on similar projects implemented recently by EGAS and the local distribution company, the daily average number of workers during the peak time will be about 20 laborers, two engineers and eighteen technicians.

*Create indirect opportunities*

As part of the construction stage, indirect benefits are expected to be sensed in the targeted areas due to the need for more supporting services to the workers and contractors who will be working in the various locations. These benefits could include, but are not limited to accommodation, food supply, transport, trade, security, manufacturing, etc.

- **Positive impacts during operation**

- Impacts related to employment

*Provide direct job opportunities to skilled and semi-skilled laborers*

The operation of Farshout PRS is expected to result in the creation of job opportunities, both directly and indirectly. The average number of workers during operation of the PRS will be about 16 workers from the permanent workers of the LDC. They are segregated as follows 6 technicians, 2 foremen, 2 maintenance (one engineer and one engineer's assistance) and 2 security. With regards to health and safety, one person will be assigned from the staff of ReGas. Additionally, 3 administrative and support staff will be assigned.

*Create indirect opportunities*

As part of the operation stage, a lot of indirect benefits are expected to be sensed in the targeted areas due to the need for more supporting services to the workers and contractors who will be working in the project site in Farshout City. This could include, but will not be limited to, provision of waste disposal services and septic tanks evacuation.

### **B. Potential negative impacts**



Detailed impact assessment was developed for various receptors. The table below summarizes the main results of impact assessment process.

Regarding to the Quantitative Risk Assessment Study (QRA), which demonstrates the following hazards:

- Gas Release
- Fires (Heat Radiation)
- Explosion (Overpressure Waves)
- Suffocation (Odorant Leak)

And referring to the risk calculations determined in Farshout PRS QRA study, the individual risk level to the exposed workers / public based on the risk tolerability criterion have been identified in Acceptable region (Lower Tolerability Limit<sup>4</sup>) for workers and no effects on public. So there are some points (Study Recommendations) need to be considered to keep the risk tolerability, and this will be describe under item (7.5) (for more details refer to the QRA Study under Annex-9)

It is anticipated that the project will result in limited impacts during operation phase. Impacts pertaining to water resources, land acquisition, visual intrusion, soil, ecology, traffic and labor influx are classified as of no significance during operation.

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#### **4 Lower Tolerability Limit**

*Which the risks are broadly tolerable to society and comparable to everyday risks faced by the public. If the overall risk is below the Lower Tolerability Limit, the ALARP Assessment is likely to be straightforward and limited to ensuring compliance with Good Practice. Below the Lower Tolerability Limit, the principal risk management concern is the maintenance of existing risk reduction measures to avoid degradation.*



### Summary of potential negative impacts

Potential Impact Significance (Duration, Difficulty to mitigate)											
Activity	Air emissions	Noise	Reduction of Traffic Flow	Surface Water	Solid, Hazardous Wastes and Liquid Waste	Community health and safety	Labor conditions and occupational health & safety	Child labor	Soil pollution	Land acquisition	Visual intrusion
Potential negative impacts during construction phase											
<b>Mobilization</b>	Temporary, minor	Temporary, minor	Temporary, minor	Temporary, minor	Temporary, minor	N/A	Temporary, minor	Temporary, medium	Temporary, minor	No land needed	N/A
<b>Excavation</b>	Temporary, minor	Temporary, minor/medium	Temporary, minor	Temporary, minor	Temporary, medium	Temporary, low	Temporary, minor	Temporary, medium	Temporary, minor	No land needed	N/A
<b>PE Pipe laying</b>	Temporary, medium	Temporary, minor	N/A	N/A	Temporary, minor	N/A	Temporary, minor	Temporary, low	Temporary, medium	No land needed	N/A
<b>Leakage testing</b>	Temporary, medium	Temporary, minor	N/A	N/A	Temporary, minor	N/A	Temporary, minor	Temporary, low	Temporary, medium	No land needed	N/A
<b>PRS construction work</b>	Temporary, minor	Temporary, minor	N/A	N/A	Temporary, minor	Temporary, low	Temporary, minor	Temporary, low	Temporary, minor	Permanent, state owned land	N/A
<b>Impact Assessment</b>	Minor	Minor on community Medium on workers	Minor	Minor	Medium	Minor	Minor	Medium	Minor	No impact	No impact
Potential negative impacts during operation phase											
<b>PRS operation</b>	N/A	Permanent low	N/A	N/A	Permanent medium	Permanent low	Permanent medium	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Repairs</b>	N/A	Permanent low	N/A	N/A	Permanent medium	Permanent low	Permanent medium	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Impact Assessment</b>	No impact	Minor	No impact	No impact	Medium	Minor	Medium	No impact	No impact	No impact	No impact



## ***Analysis of Alternatives***

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- **Technology Alternatives**

- **Outlet pressure**

A gas pressure reducing station is reducing the pressure from a high transportation pressure 30-70 bar to a lower pressure 4 or 7 bar suitable for distribution or use in domestic or industrial applications. Farshout PRS will produce 7 bar outlet pressure for the local distribution network (intermediate pressure). The LDC chose to produce 7 Bar instead of 4 bar due to high consumption rate expected at Farshout city and it is designed to future extension to distribution network (intermediate pressure) will feed other city and/ or village in the district.

- **Odorant handling**

Environmental and safety control considerations and measures are integrated into the selected technology design. For example, in order to reduce emissions from the odorant unit, the odorants unit will be dosed automatically and not manual wise or by using plunger pump. Automatically and sophisticated unit management systems ensure safe and easy operation and can encompass complete remote operation of the units.

- **PRS location Alternatives**

- **PRS location**

EGAS seeks state owned land rather than privately owned land in order to avoid any potential adverse social impact on communities that may arise. Consequently, EGAS communicated with Qena Governorate authority to allocate a required plot of land from state owned lands. The Governorate in full cooperation with EGAS selected that land that is socially and technically acceptable. In March 2018, the ownership of the land allocated for the PRS was transferred to EGAS.

## ***Environmental and Social Management & Monitoring Plan***

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The objective of the Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan (ESMMP) is to outline actions for minimizing or eliminating potential negative impacts and monitor the application and performance of mitigation measures. The ESMMP identifies roles and responsibilities for different stakeholders for implementation and monitoring of mitigations. This section also presents an assessment of the institutional capacity and institutional responsibilities for implementing the ESMMP. Full ESMMP is presented in section 7 of this report. Special attention was given to the quantitative risk assessment recommendation illustrated in section 7.5 of this report.

## ***Stakeholder Engagement and Public Consultation***

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The consultation activities were conducted in full compliance with the following legislations:



- WB policies and directives related to disclosure and public consultation, namely,
  - o Directive and Procedure related to access to information
  - o World Bank Operational Policy (OP 4.01)
- Egyptian regulations related to public consultation,
  - o Environmental law No 4/1994 modified by Law 9/2009 modified with ministerial decrees no. 1095/2011 and no. 710/2012

For the purpose of the PRS-related ESIA; qualitative information and data were collected through identifying Project Affected Peoples (PAPs) residing in the areas surrounding the PRS station, and recognize their views and concerns about the project. The aim of this endeavor is to ensure a well-integrated and inclusive public review of the project.

Key groups of relevance include: ordinary citizens, community leaderships, officials and government representatives, potential, local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Development Associations (CDAs). In this regard, key groups of relevance in Farshout were approached and consulted using various tools (i.e. in-depth interviews, focus group, meetings, Panel meeting and public consultation sessions). Stakeholder engagement and public consultation activities encompassed a gender aspect that women's views and concerns were taken into account, and were well-documented.

The number community members attended the public consultation hearing was 153 people held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2013 during the first phase of the project.

- **Consultation Methodology and Activities**

The consultation process was a dynamic and evolving process which adapted with the nature and expectations of the host community. In order to establish a more profound understanding of the local communities' perceptions and perspectives of the project, stakeholders' engagement and public consultation activities involved a broad base of community members; especially people residing in the areas surrounding the PRS station.

The first step was to collect the responses and feedbacks of the local communities through conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), structured questionnaires, panel meeting and public consultation sessions. The second step was to analyze these qualitative data in order to reach a conclusion regarding the general stance and attitudes of the local communities towards the project. Various NGOs participated actively in the preparation of the FGDs and providing data collectors to assist the team in collecting the data.

- **Summary of consultation activities**

With regard to the PRS station, stakeholders' engagement and public consultation activities were conducted in order to ensure that the views and concerns of the local communities are integrated, and guarantee that they are taken into account by the different parties in charge of implementing the project. The views and concerns of local



communities are an integral part of the project, and they are to be thoroughly taken into account throughout the different phases of the project.

The field research team commissioned by EcoConServ engaged in a number of social activities. These activities include focus group discussions with potential beneficiaries; in-depth discussions with government officials, representatives of civil society, and community leaders. A panel meeting was held at Farshout 's LGU headquarters, where the public officials of Farshout 's LGU stressed on expediting the implementation of the project in their city.

Throughout the discussions interviewees were asked about three main points:

- The safety of the high-pressure pipelines.
- The compensation mechanisms for damages resulting from constructions
- Safety procedures during operations

It was notable that the reactions and feedbacks of the local communities are in favor of the project. The field research team noted a strong public support and eagerness towards the project. Beside some legitimate concerns expressed by the public, the field research team recorded the general view that NG is a far better substitute for the type of fuel currently in use and that it carries many economic benefits for Farshout .

- **ESIA disclosure**

As soon as the site-specific ESIA gets approval from the World Bank and EEAA, a final report will be published on the WB, EGAS and ReGas websites. An executive summary in Arabic will be published on EGAS and ReGas websites. A copy of the ESIA report in English and a Summary in Arabic will be made available in the customer service office. Additionally, an Arabic summary will be made available in the contracting offices. An A3 poster will be installed in the contracting office informing about the results of the ESIA and the website link for the full ESIA study.