

DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND SAFETY: ENERGY IN LOMBARDY HAS A PLUS

- ***The 380 kV “Turbigo – Rho” power line was inaugurated***
- ***1.000 MegaWatt more for the Milan area***
- ***25 kms of old lines dismantled***
- ***Advanced technological solutions for environmental protection***
- ***180 kms of priority development and rationalization projects***

Rho, 24 February 2007 – The 380 kV “Turbigo – Rho” power line was inaugurated today. The ceremony was hosted by Luigi Roth and Flavio Cattaneo, respectively Terna Chairman and CEO, and included the participation of the Councilor of Environment and Energy to the Province of Milan, Bruna Brembilla.

As part of the principal activity of the National Transmission Grid Development Plan, the “Turbigo-Rho” line holds a role of primary importance for the modernization of electricity transmission in North-Western Italy. For this reason, the power line was included among the works of “national pre-eminent interest” as identified by the *Legge Obiettivo*. In particular, for the Milan area, the Turbigo-Rho line is essential for increasing the grid’s safety in a territory with a high population and industrial density. Moreover, according to Terna Strategic Plan, in Lombardy three priority initiatives are scheduled for development and rationalization, for a total of nearly 180 kms of lines, with an investment of approximately 200 million euros. Specifically, the new 380 kV Trino-Lacchiarella line and the rationalization of Lodi and Milan areas.

The following are the advantages of the “Turbigo–Rho” power line:

- **1.000 MW added capacity** for covering the demand in the area; this is a quantity of power equal to the sum of three large stations, available for industry, services and families;
- **Removal of grid congestion** on the territory, with a consequent “release” of the production of the two stations located in the Milan area: the thermoelectric power station in Turbigo (1.600 MW) and the pumping power station in Roncovalgrande (960 MW), which were limited but which can now entirely allocate the energy produced for consumption in the Milan area. This favours the increase of available electricity with greater safety conditions;
- **Increased safety**, reliability and effectiveness of the high and extra-high voltage grid in the Milan area;
- **Reduction of grid losses by approximately 150 million KWh per year**, with savings equal to 10 million euro per year.

The new 28 kms line (20 overhead and 8 underground to reduce environmental impact to the minimum), involved 11 Municipalities of the Province of Milan (Robecchetto con Induco, Cuggiolo, Inveruno, Busto Garolfo, Casorezzo, Parabiago, Arluno, Nervino, Vanzago, Pogliano Milanese and Rho) and several parks (among which: Parco del Ticino, Parco del Roccolo, WWF Bosco di Vanzago Natural Reserve and the Parco agricolo Sud Milano).

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The authorization procedure, including the coordination activity with each territorial organization involved, was carried out as follows: from 2001 to 2002 coordination; from 2003 to 2004 authorization; in 2005 the opening of the building site and in 2006 the shut down.

Work was carried out by Terna technicians with a total investment of approximately 40 million euros. Work involved 5 different companies and 70 highly trained staff members. Building the 48 pylons which form the line has required over 1.000 tons of metal carpentry and 320 tons of installed conductors. Furthermore, two new power stations for overhead-cable conversion (Pogliano Milanese and Rho) were built. At the same time, Terna dismantled 25 km of 220 kV old lines (between Turbigo and Ospiate) as an environmental improvement initiative and also took care of the Bosco di Arbuno Brugliereza and of planting vegetation in the Parco Lombardo.

The project criteria adopted in choosing the layout of the new line were agreed upon together with the Region, Province and each Municipality, fully respecting the environment and the community. Terna's technicians carried out the project by adopting highly advanced technological solutions (mixed overhead-ground cables) that required an innovative capacity in researching the best possible layout in an area that is highly anthropized also having specific environmental and landscape characteristics (parks, natural reserves, sites of general community interest, special protection areas, woods).

Only in 2006, Terna shut down nearly 60 projects including long-distance lines and power stations, with a growth of investments that, in the second half of the year, registered +35% compared to the same period in 2005. In 2006, in addition to the Turbigo-Rho line, two new power lines were built such as the interconnection cable between Sardinia and Corsica (SAR.CO), and the "Matera-S.Sofia" line, completed in December 2006, 220 kms long, representing the longest 380 kV power line Italy.

"Guaranteeing efficiency, development and safety of the electricity system - stated Chairman Luigi Roth – is among Terna's principal guidelines in its mission as National Transmission Grid Operator. In particular, the building of this line has also been a success in the relations with the local authorities and with the territory and represents the foundation of the activities that Terna is carrying out also for other lines being planned together with the Regions and local Authorities. The more a project is strategic, the more it is necessary to promote the right balance between energy needs and protection of the surrounding environment".

"Building the Turbigo-Rho line has marked a fundamental step in accelerating the process for developing electricity infrastructures - stated CEO Flavio Cattaneo – In the past 24 months, Terna has built 6 new long distance power lines for a total of over 560 kms. As announced in the strategic plan, in the next five years, we will invest 2.1 billion euros for development intended mainly for priority projects in Italy and for new inter-connection links with foreign countries. This will lead us to strengthen even more one of the fundamental strategic infrastructures for the country's development to the benefit of our economy's competitiveness and of the entire community".