The Stevin-project
Lessons learned through the BESTGRID project

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Jeroen Mentens (Elia)
Mid 2014: pilot project Braine l’Alleud-Waterloo stopped

Stevin project:

• Ex post evaluation public acceptance
• Permitting phase (nearly) finished
• Many (voluntary) information/participation attempts

BBL = Bond Beter Leefmilieu

• Flemish environmental umbrella organisation
• 150 local and regional NGO’s
Analysis of existing documents

• **Stakeholder** mapping
• Analysis: local **inputs, objections and concerns**
• Analysis: **reactions** to the objections and concerns
• Analysis planning and permitting **procedures**

Interview, workshops with stakeholders

• **10 in depth-interviews** with most important stakeholders
• **2 workshops** with NGO’s, farmers, public concerned, local authorities,…
  • How to improve **stakeholder engagement** in these procedures?
• **2 focus groups** with (local) governments, administrations, consultancy offices, …
  • How to improve **procedures**? What about the new procedure of the Flemish Government? ‘What if’ we would have used the new procedure for Stevin?
WP3 – Stevin: what is it?

**Key info:**
- Zeebrugge – Zomergem (near Ghent)
- 380kV
- 47km of which 10km underground
- 4 drivers:
  - Offshore windfarms
  - Interconnection UK-Be (Nemo)
  - Onshore decentralised energy
  - Harbour development
WP3 – Stevin: protected areas

Local situation:
- 8 communities
- 2 provinces
- 1 region
- Protected landscapes (red)
- Protected nature (green, blue, yellow)
- Habitation
  - Very disperse
WP3 – Stevin: dispers habitation
WP3 – Stevin: ex. SEA-procedure
WP3 – Stevin: measures

Main issues throughout the proces
- Visual impact
- EMF and health related issues
- Property value

Measures taken

Technical
- Routing:
  - Maximal (re)use of existing high voltage lines
  - Bundling with another line
  - HTLS-conductors
  - Undergrounding through Natura2000
- Two terns with shift in phase
- Tower design with isolated mast arms
- Demolition 2 old lines

Non-technical
- Landscape integration project
- Compensation policy for spanned houses
- Compensation policy for farmland

Results
- Rather high % of easy agreements with land owners
- Positive reactions about info markets
- “only” 8 appeals against spatial plan, less against permits