

# FICHTNER

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## Your letter dated 10 May 2021

### Fichtner's participation in the Matarbari coal-fired power plant (phase 1) in Bangladesh

Dear Ms. Chowdhury,  
Dear Ms. Nowshin,  
Dear Ms. Otten,

Thank you for your letter of 10 May expressing your concerns regarding two coal-fired power plant projects in Matarbari, Bangladesh and their potential impact. We take these concerns very seriously and would like to respond to them following an internal review.

As you have correctly outlined, our company provides planning and engineering services as a consultant in an Owners Engineer Consortium for the power station Matarbari I under the direction of the government-owned energy company Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh (CPGGBL). As a member of said consortium, Fichtner is performing highly specific sub-services in different phases of the planning, albeit without any involvement in determining the site location, overall site development or associated projects such as the construction of a port. Our last active involvement in the project was during the preparation of the EPC specification as well as support during the bidding process and EPC contract award which dates more than three years back. Since then, our limited scope within the consortium has not included any active role of our company nor any presence of our employees on site. For this reason, we are unfortunately not able to adequately verify or respond to the statements you make. Therefore, we can only

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refer you to the leader of the Owners Engineering Consortium responsible for the entire project, Tokyo Electric Power Services Co. (TEPSCO).

You may rest assured that Fichtner gives very careful consideration to its involvement as independent consultant in projects. This assessment takes particular account of sustainability issues and to this end considers all three dimensions: society, ecology and economy. We have established a proven internal process for making these decisions which also incorporates external critical input such as yours. As such, we are very grateful for your remarks.

When we were asked to participate in the Matarbari I project, the following considerations factored heavily into our decision: Because of extreme poverty, a very high population density as well as a massively limited potential for cost effective energy generation from renewable sources the socioeconomic development of the region depends heavily on the security of electricity supply. Against this backdrop, Matarbari I improves local regional development, contributes significantly to the security of electricity supply and, due to its low emissions, meets the internationally applicable requirements of the ESIA.

You specifically refer in your letter to the planning of Matarbari II. As we understand it, this potential project is still in a very early planning phase. Fichtner is not involved in the preparatory study nor any other activities related to the project mentioned above at this stage. Given the very limited information available to us, we are not yet prepared to make an assessment for Matarbari II and thank you for your understanding that we therefore cannot provide any further information on this project. Should we consider participation in Matarbari II we will then evaluate the situation taking all three dimensions of sustainability into consideration. In this case we will be happy to comment on the new circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Fichtner GmbH & Co. KG



Theophil Laukemann