

**President of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

*010000, Astana, Ak-Orda*

**Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

*010000, Astana, Left Bank, Parliament Building*

**Ministry of Environment Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

*010000, Astana, Left Bank, House of Ministers, Block A*

**Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

*010000, Astana, Kenesary St., 36*

**Forestry and Hunting Committee of**

**Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

*Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan*

*010000, Astana, 35-ya St., House of Ministers, Bldg. #2, Entrance 5*

**Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

*00001, Astana, Kabanbai batyra Prospect, 22*

**OPEN LETTER**

Dear Sirs!

The people of the Republic of Kazakhstan express great concern for the planned “Moinak Electricity Transmission Project”, prepared by the joint stock company “Kazakhstan Electricity Grid Operating Company” (KEGOC).

According to this plan, construction is proposed for two 220 kV overhead transmission lines (OHTL), which will connect the Moinak Hydro Power Plant (HPP) on the Charyn River (Raimbek District, Almaty Oblast) with acting electricity grids. It is planned that OHTL will cross through the territory of the **Charyn and Altyn-Emel** national parks. KEGOC has applied for project financing from the World Bank ([http://www.kegoc.kz/page.php?page\\_id=625&lang=1](http://www.kegoc.kz/page.php?page_id=625&lang=1)).

According to the July 7, 2006 Law “On Specially Protected Natural Territories”, “any activity not in accordance with their designated purpose is prohibited on the grounds of specially protected natural territories” (Articles 23, 45 and 48). The June 20, 2003 Land Code (Articles 122 and 123) and other normative legal acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan also forbid the non-purposive use of the grounds of specially protected natural territories.

Planned OHTL will cut across the Charyn Canyon—a specially protected natural territory of nationwide significance, which is part of a list of land plots that hold special environmental and scientific value, in accordance with the June 30, 2005 Government Decree #657.

In 2002, the Government included the Altyn-Emel national park in the tentative list of objects nominated for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/1682/>).

The implementation of the KEGOC “Moinak Electricity Transmission Project” will lead to violation of the Republic of Kazakhstan’s legislation on specially protected natural territories, threatening the environmental integrity of the national parks. The construction and use of OHTL

will have a negative effect on the habitats and migration paths of the wildlife of these territories, which includes species contained in the Kazakhstan's Red Book. Moreover, the construction significantly threatens the visual uniqueness of the mountainous and plains landscape of these territories, which are highly attractive to tourists.

To date, there is no report that the Forestry and Hunting Committee—a special authorized state body, whose jurisdiction includes national parks and other natural territories—has coordinated this project (Forestry and Hunting Committee Letter # 25-02-09-25/651 from 02/25/2009). Thereby a new request was sent to the Committee.

We demand strict compliance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which prohibits the construction of OHTL on the grounds of specially protected natural territories, in particular on the grounds of national parks.

We demand that changes be made to the plan for the “Moinak Electricity Transmission Project” in order to place OHTL outside of the borders of the Charyn and Altyn-Emel national parks and their protection zones.

We demand that the public receive timely, detailed information on the development and coordination of the project. We demand that the public be brought into the decision-making process on issues regarding the construction of OHTL in strict accordance with the Aarhus Convention (Article 6 and Annex I, Point 17).

The Ecological Society “Green Salvation”.

**This letter is supported by:**