

# FCC: Environmental studies state of progress



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## **Objectives**

In the context of the feasibility study, the objectives are:

- Establish a state of the current environmental conditions at the surface site locations
- Carry out the environmental impact studies for the geotechnical and geophysical investigations (i.e. boreholes and seismic lines)

#### Two ultimate goals:

**Regulatory objective:** obtain authorisation to carry out the subsurface site investigations



Example of a surface site in Versonnex (LHC point 6, France)

**Environmental objective:** identify the existing environmental constraints to verify the in-principle feasibility and to provide the basis for the ecodesign approach of the infrastructures and sites

### Processes



## Subsurface investigations

WHERE: In 9 areas with a lack of detailed geological knowledge

WHY: To determine the position of:

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- the base surface of Quaternary deposits in depression zone
- the roof of Cretaceous karstified limestones

to get a better understanding of the technical risks and costs of the civil engineering works and to determine the optimal depth of the tunnel





## Subsurface investigations

#### **GEOPHYSICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

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- 53 seismic lines (31 in France, 18 in Switzerland (including 8 on Lake Geneva) and 4 overlapping both countries)
- With a length between 200 m and over 4 000 m
- Using of different techniques depending on site constraints and geological context:
  - Seismic reflection:

High resolution using a vibrating truck Very high resolution using a wheelbarrow (off-shore for the Lake Geneva)

Seismic refraction

Falling weights or explosives depending on the sensitivity of the sectors











## Subsurface investigations

#### **GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

- 46 boreholes (31 in France and 15 in Switzerland including 4 on Lake Geneva)
- With a depth between 100 m and over 400 m







## Progress of authorization and permitting

#### **INITIAL STATE ASSESSMENT PERFORMED**

for each of the 53 lines and 46 borehole's sites, based on:

- bibliographic data collection
- fields survey

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Fauna and flora : 4-season investigations (149 flora species and 357 fauna species observed in total) Wetland investigations







## Progress of authorization and permitting

#### **CONFIRMED HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL STAKES**

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#### in some subsurface investigation areas and in particular :

- Marais de l'Etournel (Rhone sector): protected natural area with hydrological constraints
- Lake Geneva: some areas protected because of biodiversity and prehistorical heritage







### Progress of authorization and permitting

#### DESIGN OF DEDICATED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTING MEASURES

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES**

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to **avoid** environmental impacts due to subsurface investigations:

- Optimisation of location of the works
- Optimisation of the techniques for the works (falling weights instead of explosives)



Alternatives for borehole's location





## Progress of authorization and permitting procedures

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES**

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### to **reduce** environmental impacts due to subsurface investigations:

- Adaptation of the operations schedule to avoid animal breeding periods
- Installation of anti-amphibian barriers and moving animals away from the site
- Laying geotextile under the platform to protect soils and avoid the mixing of different soil horizons
- Avoid direct discharge of drilling waters and installation of borehole-water treatment plants



#### Adaptation of the operations schedule





Science du sol

pédologie



## Environmental authorization processes

#### FRANCE

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Both geophysical and geotechnical investigations considered as one single authorisation package

- Water law: "Dossier de declaration au titre de la loi sur l'eau"
- <u>Natural habitats</u>: "Evaluation des incidences Natura 2000"
- Protected species: "Dossier de demande de dérogation pour les espèces protégées"
- Subsurface: "Dossier de declaration au titre du code minier"

#### SWITZERLAND

Geophysical and geotechnical investigations separately instructed ; each borehole requires a construction permit

- Geotechnical investigations: "Requête en autorisation de prospection"
- <u>Geophysical investigations</u>: "Dossier d'autorisation de construire" for each of the 15 boreholes

#### $\rightarrow$ Files currently being instructed by the relevant authorities

## Permitting (rights to carry out works on plots)

FRANCE

- <u>Geotechnical investigations</u>: "Arrêté de pénétrer sur les parcelles privées", obtained by CERN (T4 2023), which enables non-invasive works to be carried out
- <u>Geophysical investigations</u>: "Arrêté d'occupation temporaire", obtained by CERN (T4 2023), which enables invasive work to be carried out (agreements with each landowner or user to be taken on a case-by-case approach)

SWITZERLAND

• Landowner and user's agreement required before any work

→ On-going exchanges with landowners and farmers who rent the plots (201 in France and 65 in Switzerland) and establishment of agreements including financial compensation for the nuisances with each person individually

## Surface sites

#### **8 SURFACE SITES**

- Evenly distributed around the tunnel
  - 1 site in Switzerland
  - 7 sites in France
- · Each one with specific environmental constraints
- $\rightarrow$  A thorough report addressing all environmental themes has to be issued for all 8 sites





• FAUNA AND FLORA

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- Collection of bibliographical data
- 4-season field surveys concerning flora, birds, frogs, reptiles, bats, entomofauna, terrestrial mammals

 $\rightarrow$  99 flora species and 331 fauna species observed in total (Status on 1st of June 2024) including several patrimonials species

 $\rightarrow$  Field investigations still on-going



#### SOIL AND AGRICULTURE

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- Collection of bibliographical data
- Field visits and soil surveys
- Laboratory soils analysis
- · Interviews with farmers







→ Agricultural land on all sites : 3 sites cultivated with annual crops and 5 sites occupied by temporary or permanent grassland

 $\rightarrow$  Laboratory soils analysis and farmer's interviews on-going



#### AIR AND CLIMAT

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- Collection of bibliographical data
- On-site measurements over a 4-week period for different pollutants
  NO2, PM10 and closed to airport CO, benzene or COV, SO2, PM10
- 61 measuring points

#### Planned in June 2024 and October 2024







#### NOISE

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- Collection of bibliographical data
- On-site measurements over a 24h period
- 47 measuring points

#### Planned in July 2024







#### LANSDCAPE

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- Field visit performed for each surface site perimeter
- Landscape analysis of the area (5 km around the site)

# → low to medium landscape stakes: 5 sites → medium to high landscape stakes: 3 sites





Also :

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- WATER QUALITY
- TRAFFIC
- HUMAN ACTIVITIES

• FOREST

• ....

- LIGHT POLLUTION
- ARCHEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

No project-blocking constraints identified at this stage

#### → ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STATE ANALYSIS (EISA) REPORT

to be finalized by end of 2024

→ With these knowledge, next phase will be to avoid the impacts, or to reduce it, or to compensate it

## **Development of EISA report**

#### CONTENTS

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Non-technical presentation of the FCC motivation, study and a potential project

Presentation of the eco-development approach and high level strategy elements that need to be considered for further technical developments

#### Environmental analysis of perimeter:

- Climate, air, water, soil, geology, biodiversity, habitats, urbanism, mobility, economic activities, patrimony (cultural, architectural, archeological, natural) landscape, noise, vibration, artificial light pollution, radiation, natural risks, technical risks, potentially conflicting and synergetic projects
- Evolution of the territory without FCC

Futur Collisionneur Circulaire

Aspects environnementaux et état initial Etat initial de l'environnement

> INWORK 11 mars 2024

### Take home message

### CERN's commitment to environmental protection

→ many field investigations carried out and still ongoing to gain precise knowledge of environmental constraints

→ a full report covering 15 environmental themes, to be attached to the feasibility study

no fewer than 17 environmental impact assessments for subsurface investigations to be submitted to French and Swiss government departments



# Thanks

#### CERN

Co-authors

Cantonal services (Geneva, GESDEC)

Local authorities (Swiss and French)

Swiss authorities (FOEN)

French authorities (DDT/ DREAL)





# Thank you for your attention