

PAKISTAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
EIA GUIDELINES - AN OVERVIEW.

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997, which provides for environmental assessment in Clause 12, and various other clauses.

Review of Initial Environmental Examination and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2000

This regulation has been notified vide S. R. O. No. 339 (1)/2000 dated 13th June, 2000.

EIA Guideline Package:

The Federal EPA, in collaboration with other key stakeholders, including Provincial EPA's and Planning and Development Division from both the Federal Government and the provinces, other Agencies, NGO's representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and academics and consultants, prepared a package of comprehensive procedures and guidelines for environmental assessment in Pakistan. It is emphasized that the various guidelines may be read as a package; reliance on the sectoral guidelines alone will be inadequate.

The principal documents are:

Policy and Procedures for the filing, review and approval of environmental assessments, which sets out the key policy and procedural requirement. It contains a brief policy statement on the purpose of environmental assessment and the goal of sustainable development, required that environmental assessment be integrated with feasibility studies. Defines the jurisdiction of the Federal and Provincial EPA's and P&D's. Lists the responsibilities of proponents, and lists the duties of Responsible Authorities. It provides schedules of proposals that require either an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) or an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Guidelines for the preparation and review of Environmental Reports is a longer and more descriptive document, which covers:

- The Initial Environmental report (scoping, alternatives, site selection, format of IEE)
- Assessing impacts (identification, analysis and prediction, baseline data, significance)
- Mitigation and impact management (and preparing an environmental management plan)
- Reporting (drafting style, main features, shortcoming, other forms of presentation)
- Review and decision-making (role, steps, remedial options, checks and balances)
- Monitoring and auditing (systematic follow up, purpose, effective data management)
- Project management (inter-disciplinary teams, programming & budgeting)

Guidelines for public consultation (in preparation), which covers:

- Consultation, involvement and participation
- Stakeholders
- Techniques for public consultation (principles, levels of involvement, tools, building trust)
- Effective public consultation (planning, stages of EIA where consultation is appropriate)
- Consensus building and dispute resolution
- Facilitating involvement (including the poor, women, building community and NGO capacity)

Guidelines for sensitive and critical areas (in preparation), which will identify sensitive and critical areas in Pakistan, in relation both to the natural environment and to cultural aspects.

Pakistan environmental legislation and the National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) which is a reference document listing key environmental laws and regulations, and a complete listing of the NEQS.

Detailed sectoral guidelines, being prepared progressively, including **Major thermal power stations, Major chemical and manufacturing plants, Water supply projects, Industrial estates, New township development, Major roads, Sewerage schemes**, Irrigation and drainage, Dams, Forestry, Municipal waste disposal, **Oil and gas exploration**. Those in bold above have been drafted, following a format which specific guidance and requirements on:

- A sector overview of the industry and processes
- Potential impacts on the environment
- Mitigation measures
- Monitoring and reporting
- Management and training
- Checklist of likely environmental impacts and mitigation measures