

ISSUES CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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ABSTRACT: The paper aims to establish the steps required going through the procedure for assessing environmental impact, namely that the competent authority for environmental protection establishes whether the draft of a proposed activity for which the issuing of environmental permits will be or not subject to making an environmental impact assessment.

KEYWORDS: Procedure, employment, projects, impact assessment.

1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental impact assessment is a process to identify what, to describe and establish, depending on each case and in accordance with current legislation, the direct and indirect, synergistic, cumulative, main and side of a project on human health and the environment.

2. APPLIED ASPECTS OF ACHIEVEMENT SCREENING STAGE

According to GD. 445/2009, employment is the stage of environmental impact assessment by the competent environmental authority determines whether a project proposed activities for which the issuing of environmental permits will be subject to performance assessment or environmental impact.

Information on which the competent environmental authority decides the classification of projects are provided by the holder of the memorial project presentation.

Framing involves three main elements:

a). Identify potential project to have environmental impacts

For this purpose you can use checklists below. They are arranged in order of questions that follow the selection criteria listed in Appendix. 3 of H.G. 445/2009.

It is useful to complement these lists during the site visit by the competent environmental authority, the project owner presence and possibly representatives of NGOs or other institutions concerned.

b). Existence of information

Necessary information is derived from the criteria to be used when making the examination and presented in annex. 3 of H.G. 445/2009. List this information is presented in annex 4 of the HG 445/2009.

In practice it is expected that, in most cases, the developer cannot provide information on characteristics of the potential impact of lack of knowledge.

That's where field visits and the discussions should be held between the competent environmental authority, the developer, members of the CAT (Technical Review Committee) and other organizations, including representatives of the public. They can make a significant

contribution to identifying any possible fears expressed locally about the project.

c). Estimating the significance of the effects

The most important task but perhaps the most difficult of those involved in the screening process into those that require the environmental impact assessment is to determine whether or not significant effect. Notes on some practical ways to address these issues are discussed below.

3. USE CHECKLIST

Checklist used in the screening stage is presented in table. 1.

1. Identify potential project to have environmental impacts

The checklist includes a series of questions that will be considered to identify the possibility that the project under consideration or have significant environmental effects. The checklist is organized into two parts corresponding to the first two criteria for selecting the above classification phase, namely:

- a) design features;
- b) location of project.

Both parties are in column 1 of a number of basic questions, each question is followed by other subsidiaries. The main questions concern the possibility of an action / effect as a consequence of the nature or location of the project both during construction and in operation and decommissioning phases.

The list using subsidiary will answer each question with one of the following four choices:

- Yes - if possible to appear an effect;
- No- if it is not expected to appear an effect;
- ? - can appear uncertain whether or not an effect;
- NC (not applicable) - if the question is not relevant to the development.

The answers fall in column 2. For cases answered by "Yes", the next step is to decide whether it is possible that the effect will be significant.

Table 1. Checklist for scoping

Questions	Possible answers Yes, No, NC, “?”	The effect is significant? Why?
A. Nature of project (according annex 4 of the H.G. 445/2009)		
Question - Will the project involve any of the following, which will create changes in the area as a result of the nature, size, shape or purpose of the new investment?		
1	Permanent or temporary change of use of land, how to cover or topography, including increased use?	
2	Release existing land vegetation and buildings?	
3	Creating new land uses?	
4	Preliminary investigation phase of construction (ex. soil tests, drills)?	
5	Construction?	
6	Demolition?	

- 7 Temporary sites used for construction work or home builders?
- 8 Ground construction, structures or earthworks including excavation?
- 9 Works including underground mines or tunnels?
- 10 Land improvement works?

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Question - Are there other factors that may be considered?

- 85 Following the project, will be imperative that further developments could have a significant impact on the environment (eg. More housing, roads, industrial facilities and utilities support us, etc.)?
- 86 The project will lead to utilities support the development of auxiliary industries and other developments that could have an impact on the environment, ex.:
 - Support infrastructure (roads, energy, waste or wastewater etc.)?
 - Housing development?
 - Mining and quarrying?
 - Industry to provide raw materials?
 - Other?
- 87 The project could further limit the use of the site in order to have a significant impact on the environment?
- 88 The project will set a precedent for future development?
- 89 The project will have cumulative effects due to proximity to other existing or planned projects that have similar effects?
- 90 The project concerns the final cessation / decommissioning activities?
In this case, there may be an impact post closure?

Questions

Possible answers	The effect is significant?
Yes, No, NC, “?”	Why?

B. Project location (according annex 4 of the H.G. 445/2009)

Question - Will the project have an impact on the use of existing and future land?

- 1 Existing land use?
- 2 Use zoning to a planned or future uses?
- 3 Adjacent land use (the existing and proposed)?

Question - Is it possible that the project will have effects on sensitive areas with partial or total occupation of the area, passing it or by carrying out such works within the area.

- 4 Protected areas to conserve natural values, landscape, cultural heritage?
- 5 Wetlands, streams or other water important?
- 6 Areas containing groundwater resources or surface, important for water supply?
- 7 Coastal areas?

- 8 Mountains?
- 9 Forests and woodlands?
- 10 Areas used by protected species of flora and fauna, including breeding, rearing, feeding, sheltering, hibernation?
- 11 Areas located on the migration route of birds (or animals if any)?
- 12 Already polluted areas, such as those in which environmental quality standards are exceeded or where soil and / or groundwater contaminated?
- 13 Often populated areas?
- 14 Areas with sensitive uses, such as hospitals, schools, places of worship?
- 15 Areas of high landscape quality or decorative?
- 16 Areas which due to topography can be very visible and surrounded by many receptors?
- 17 Important areas for tourism and recreation?
- 18 Access areas to the public at large?
- 19 Areas containing significant historic resources, cultural and archaeological?
- 20 Sustainable areas to earthquakes, collapse / landslides, erosion or extreme or adverse climatic conditions, eg temperature inversions, fog, wind, etc., Which can affect the project and thus determine the environment?
- 21 Areas with good quality soil or in areas where land resource is poor?
- 22 Complex resistant to natural or artificial regeneration

2. Identifying potential effect is significant

Often difficulties arise when you must decide whether the effect is significant. It is useful at taking this decision to consider to what extent that effect can have a decisive role on the decision to issue environmental permits for the project.

For each effect in column 2 was answered by "Yes" will ask the questions listed in Table. 2, and the answer will be within the control column 3.

After completing the column 3 is to decide whether the project will undergo environmental impact assessment.

There is no general rule applicable in this regard. Theoretically, it may have carried out environmental impact assessment if there is one answer "Yes" in column 3.

However, as there are several answers "Yes" to the more justified the application of environmental impact assessment carried out.

The presence of responses of "?" in columns 2 and 3 indicate that there is uncertainty regarding the occurrence or significance of the effect that, where necessary to require environmental impact assessment process that will lead to clarify uncertainties.

Table 2. Questions about the significance of effect

Nature of effect - the impact is particularly complex or unusual in the area?

- The size or scale effect - how much it will change the situation?
- Geographical expansion effect - on the area will feel the effect?
- There is the possibility of transboundary impact?
- How many people or other receptors will be affected?
- Will be affected resources or other valuable or rare features of the environment?
- There is a risk of exceeding the environmental standards?
- Risk being affected areas or protected areas?
- What is the likelihood of impact?
- The impact will be short, medium or long?
- The impact will be permanent or temporary?
- The impact will occur continuously or intermittently?
- For intermittent impact will be the frequency of manifestation?
- The impact will be irreversible?
- Impact can be rectified or compensated?
- The project owner agrees to your proposal to introduce the necessary measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse impact?

4. CONCLUSIONS

The competent authority to ensure the objectivity of the screening stage, the transparency of the decision and process control evaluation environmental impact environmental protection remains as checklist completed and the information supplied by the developer and make it available to CAT for analysis and public on request.

After completing the checklist competent environmental authority decides, in the CAT, the employment project and sets the obligation to carry out environmental impact assessment, given the significance motivating effect in column 3.

If the appeal decision of the screening stage is found to be necessary modification, to reassess the project completing the checklist again based on new data and take a new decision of the screening stage motivating change the original decision.

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