



Organization Unit:	<b>Environment Department</b>	الوحدة التنظيمية :
Work Instructions title:	<b>Technical Guideline No. 1 Environmental Impact Assessment</b>	عنوان الوثيقة :
Doc Ref.	<b>DM-ED- GU01-EIA</b>	رقم الوثيقة :

# TECHNICAL GUIDELINE

## Number 01

### Environmental Impact Assessment

August 2018

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عام	درجة السرية

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## 1.0 Introduction

This Guideline was prepared and issued by the Environmental Planning & Studies Section (EPSS) under the Environment Department of Dubai Municipality. It is intended for use by Project Owners, Planners, Engineers, and Environmental Specialists for purposes of compliance with the requirements and procedures in obtaining an “Environmental Clearance” for any project in Dubai through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

This document, also referred to as the Technical Guideline No. 01 on EIA, issued on August 2018, shall in effect supersede the EPSS Technical Guideline No. 01 issued on January 2017.

## 2.0 Definition of Terms

For the use of this Guideline and Technical Guideline No. 2, the following terms, phrases, acronyms and definitions apply:

**Buffer Zone** the space within the separation distance and includes any vegetation, landscape features, and buildings or structures thereat which are not a source of emissions or of adverse impact. Buffer zone can be further enhanced by providing additional structure or landscaping features to improve the protection measures in place against pollution or adverse impacts.

**Coastal Environment Section (CES)** a Section within the Environment Department of Dubai Municipality, which oversees the sustainable development and the utilization of Dubai coastal and marine environment through the formulation and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) plans and procedures within the scope of responsibilities of Dubai Municipality. The section is responsible for the monitoring of the Projects’ compliance with the marine environment protection requirements and regulations imposed by the DM-ED in accordance with Federal Law No. 24 of 1999, as corrected by Federal Law No. 20/2006. The section contributes significantly to the decision-making, understanding, analysis and study of coastal phenomena aimed at achieving a sustainable coastal development.

**Competent Authority** The Environment Department of Dubai Municipality

**Environmental Control Section (ECS)** A Section within the DM-ED responsible for the monitoring of the Project’s compliance with the environmental requirements and regulations imposed by the DM-ED in accordance with Federal Law No. 24 of 1999, as corrected by Federal Law No. 20/2006.

**EIA Report** also referred to as the EIAR, is the documentary and comprehensive account of project EIA process. It is the prerequisite document prepared and submitted by the Project Owner in support of their application to obtain Environmental Clearance for their project. It also includes an outline of the environmental management and monitoring plans that the Owner will undertake to protect the environment.

**EIA Summary** also referred to as the EIAS, is an EIA document similar to an EIA Report in brief. The EIAS contains the information as outlined in the “Project Scope of Work” with details of all the environmental aspects of the project and a clear discussion of impacts expected from each environmental aspect

**Environment** the biosphere in which different forms of life are manifested and consist of two elements:

**Natural Element** which comprises living creatures to include man, animal, plant, and other living creatures, natural resources to include water, soil, organic and inorganic substances and natural systems.

**Unnatural Element** which comprises all that man has introduced into the natural environment, to include fixed and movable installations, roads, bridges, airports, means of transportation and innovative industries, inventions and technologies

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<b>Environmental Aspect</b>	an element, component, or resulting product of an activity or project development that interacts with the environment.
<b>Environmental Clearance</b>	also referred to as EC, is the “license” or approval in writing issued by the Competent Authority as required and provided for under the relevant legislations. EC is issued to the Project Owner after a favorable review of the EIA report. It specifies the scope and conditions that must be implemented during the life cycle of the project.
<b>Environmental Consultant</b>	An EPSS registered environmental specialist / professional / practitioner in the field of environmental science and/or engineering, who are commissioned by the Project Owner to conduct the EIA.
<b>Environmental Impact</b>	is the resulting effect of an environmental aspect. Impact is used interchangeably and has the same meaning as “effect”.
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b>	the EIA or EIA process, is the methodical appraisal of the environmental aspects and impacts of a proposed project. The EIA process also reviews options and determines appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures that are needed to minimize, if not eliminate, any adverse impacts due to project development.
<b>EPSS</b>	the Environmental Planning and Studies Section, under the Environment Department of Dubai Municipality, which is responsible for the enforcement of the Technical Guidelines on EIA.
<b>Establishment</b>	means any licensed commercial or industrial activity which may include any building, factory, equipment, shop or office and any area or land and structures pertaining thereto.
<b>Natural Resources Conservation Section (NRCS)</b>	a Section within the DM-ED responsible for the monitoring, protection and sustainable management of natural resources including soil, groundwater, and biodiversity in accordance with applicable laws & regulations.
<b>Negative impact</b>	is described as a deterioration effect on environment. It is also commonly called as an adverse impact.
<b>Positive impact</b>	is a beneficial effect. A positive environmental impact is also identified or measured as cause enhancement to the existing environment. A positive impact is synonymous to beneficial effect.
<b>Power Transmission Line</b>	or PTL means an electric line and associated equipment used to provide connection of electricity between generation facilities to customers through supply networks.
<b>PTL Easement</b>	means an open space between the power transmission cable and nearby sensitive receptors
<b>Project</b>	any activity, process, premises or development regardless of scale or magnitude, which has impact, whether significant or not, on the environment
<b>Project Owner</b>	any natural or juridical person intending to implement a project or business activity. The owner of a certain project or business activity.
<b>Sensitive Receptors</b>	include, but are not limited to, hospitals, schools, daycare facilities, elderly housing and convalescent facilities. These are areas where the occupants are more susceptible to the adverse effects of exposure to toxic chemicals, pesticides, and other environmental pollutants.
<b>Separation Distance</b>	the linear distance between the source of emission and sensitive receptors. For the purpose of addressing the needed protection from of adverse impacts, separation distance is measured from the facility, process or activity as the source of emission to the nearest boundary of the property of sensitive receptors.

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### 3.0 Reference Legislations

The relevant provisions of the following laws were used as guidance and reference in the preparation of this Guideline:

- Federal Law No. (24) of 1999 for the Protection and Development of the Environment, its amendments, and the related Ministerial Decree No. 37 issue of 2001 on the regulations concerning Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Local Order No. 61 of 1991 on the Environment Protection Regulations in the Emirate of Dubai.

### 4.0 Key Principles of EIA

- 4.1 Any project development must be environmentally sustainable and equitably meets the needs of present and future generations.
- 4.2 Implementation of any proposed project, development, activity or industrial establishment and any expansion thereof, which has the potential to cause significant adverse environmental impacts, shall not commence unless an EIA process is undertaken and an “environmental license” or Environmental Clearance (EC) is obtained in advance from the EPSS of DM Environment Department.
- 4.3 The integration of the EIA process early into the project development cycle is a vital aspect of project planning and design. The EIA process, which is primarily concerned with assessing the overall impacts of any proposed project, development or activity, also ensures the inclusion of necessary environmental protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures into the project design elements.
- 4.4 As an integral project planning and decision-making tool, the EIA process guides the Project Owner, the Environmental Consultant and the Competent Authority into making an informed decision whether or not the proposed project development meets the desired criteria on sustainability and economic viability.
- 4.5 Effective review of the EIA document depends largely on accurate, complete and timely disclosure of relevant information, usually provided by the Project Owner through the appointed Environmental Consultant during the EIA process. The EIA document serves as the most vital document in evaluating the environmental soundness and viability of a proposed project or activity. The EIA document holds the key in leading the EIA process into an informed decision whether an “environmental license” or EC can be issued or not.
- 4.6 The Project Owner has the primordial duty and responsibility for disclosing all relevant information of the project scope to produce a substantial EIA document.

### 5.0 Coverage and Application

- 5.1 This Guideline is applicable throughout the Emirate of Dubai, and it applies to all persons, property, establishment, activity or project development which is required, under the law, to go through the EIA process and obtain the EC.
- 5.2 This Guideline is applicable to any new or planned expansion or modification of any existing project, development, activity or establishment. These projects or activities are categorized into two main groups, which are:
- **Development, Infrastructure, and Utility Projects;**
  - **Industrial Projects and/or Premises related to Manufacturing Activities.**
- 5.3 The list of projects and the specific requirements and procedures that will be followed for Development, Infrastructure, and Utility Projects are provided under EPSS Technical Guideline No. 02.
- 5.5 The requirements and procedures for Industrial Projects and/or Premises related to Manufacturing Activities are provided in the Environmental Compliance Guideline for the Industrial Sector of Dubai.

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## 6.0 General Requirement and Procedures

- 6.1 The required EIA document for the Project shall be prepared by an Environmental Consultant registered with the Dubai Municipality Environment Department (DM-ED).
- 6.2 All EIA related documents, including the EIA report/summary and any related technical report that is required by EPSS, must bear the signature of the authorized person who prepared such report. Endorsement / authorization letter from the Project Owner is also required when submitting such reports.
- 6.3 Any person/company/Environmental Consultant/s that shall represent the Project Owner must have an "Authorization Letter" stating the scope and responsibilities of the "Authorized Person/Company", and such a letter must be provided to the EPSS in order for him/her to transact/conduct official business with EPSS to address all environmental regulatory requirements.
- 6.4 The preparation of EIA Report or EIA Summary shall follow the outline as prescribed by EPSS Technical Guideline No. 02.
- 6.5 (a) The timeframe for the evaluation of EIA documents, within which to issue an "official reply" to the Project Owner and/ or its authorized representative or a "decision" on the projects being applied for EC, is given as follows:

Type of Document	Timeframe in number of working days
EIA Report	30
EIA Summary	21

(b) The processing timeframe starts from the date when the EIA document is received by EPSS. It shall automatically stop once EPSS issue its official response or if a decision is made. The timeframe will automatically reset once the submission of the required document(s) or amendments, as applicable, is received anew by EPSS.

- 6.7 All proposed projects or activities must be sited at proper location with adequate buffer or separation distance from any sensitive receptors or from other adjacent project or activity, whether existing or proposed/planned, which may be another source of potentially adverse impacts. The sensitivity of the receptors, as well as the potential external impacts of adjacent project or activity, shall be taken into consideration in providing the necessary buffer or separation distance.

## 7.0 Approval or Rejection of Environmental Clearance Application

- 7.1 The document regarding the final decision on the application may be in the form of an EC or a "Rejection Letter", which shall be issued directly to the Project Owner and/or its authorized representative, as applicable<sup>1</sup>. The EC will only be released once the Project Owner has settled all requirements, outstanding fees, liabilities, fines and other obligations with the DM-ED.
- 7.2 The EC would specify the scope and limitations of the approved project as well as the required environment protection measures and other means that will ensure compliance with all applicable regulations on environment protection; while a Rejection Letter, on the other hand, shall state the reasons for such decision.
- 7.3 The issuance of EC does not exempt the Project Owner from obtaining other relevant permits and clearances from other concerned authorities as may be required by the applicable law. It does not also preclude other government agencies on enforcing their own requirements, rules and regulations on a particular project that was issued an EC by EPSS.
- 7.4 The review and processing of the EC shall not proceed if the submission (including the required attachments) is incomplete. All submissions not within the prescribed format shall be rejected.

<sup>1</sup> A Rejection Letter may also be issued if the second EIA document revision does not satisfy the substantive requirement as stipulated in the Technical Guidelines. This is not limited to inadequacy of technical information and the length of time for the Environmental Consultant to address the review and assessment comments.

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- 7.5 All submissions / clearance applications shall be rescinded if additional information or requirements are not submitted within the prescribed timeframe. A letter requesting for extension can be submitted subject to EPSS' approval.
- 7.6 Any issued EC not collected within a period of three (3) months from the date of issuance shall be rescinded.
- 7.7 The Environmental Clearance conditions to be complied by the Project Owner and its appointed contractors and/or operators of development, infrastructure, and utility projects are provided in Annex V of TG No. 2.

## 8.0 Post EIA Requirements

### 8.1 Compliance Monitoring

Once approval is issued, the implementation of the project shall be monitored to ensure compliance with the stipulated conditions, and to determine whether the framework of the environmental management program in the approved EIA document is effective or requires further improvement.

### 8.2 Environmental Performance Reports

The Project Owner shall be required to carry out periodic analyses of discharges and pollutants arising from the project, and to monitor their impacts. The scope of analyses will be specified by EPSS in writing which may be stipulated in the issuance of the EC. Accounts of monitoring and result of analyses shall be maintained to form part of the Environmental Performance Report (EPR) that must be regularly submitted to the Environmental Control Section (ECS). Refer to TG No. 2 for the prescribed format.

For further information, please visit Dubai Municipality website [www.dm.gov.ae](http://www.dm.gov.ae)

or contact the Environmental Planning & Studies Section (EPSS) at

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