

Environment Agency– Abu Dhabi



Update of Environmental Permitting Procedures and Guidelines

Overview of Updates
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Launch Ceremony
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Overview of Updates

- ❑ EAD have released a suite of revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for permitting of projects and facilities and Technical Guidance documents for the preparation and submission of environmental studies
- ❑ Available on the EAD Website www.ead.ae
- ❑ Launch Ceremony marks the official release of the updated suite of documents to the public

Abu Dhabi Environmental Law

- The new suite of documents:
 - Comply with Federal Law No.24 of 1999 for the Protection and Development of the Environment
 - Support and complement the Abu Dhabi Environment, Health and Safety Management System (EHSMS) Framework, due for implementation this year
- The documents integrates with the new Abu Dhabi EHSMS, which takes into consideration all aspects related to the protection of the environment, protection of human health and safety of works and the community

Review Process

- ❑ Conducted an overall review of international best practices for permitting processes and requirements for the preparation and submission of environmental studies
- ❑ Key EAD management and staff discussed and reviewed the best practices and provided comments
- ❑ Draft revisions of permitting SOPs and Technical Guidance documents for environmental studies were prepared
- ❑ A series of internal review cycles were conducted to develop and refine the draft documents

Review Process

- Based on review comments, the updated documents were finalised and approved by EAD management
- Launch ceremony announces the release of the suite of documents to consultants, proponents and the public
- Documents made available online
- SOPs and Technical Guidance documents will be reviewed and updated every 2 to 3 years

Overview of Updates

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the permitting of industrial facilities and development projects
 - SOP for Permitting of Development and Infrastructure Projects in Abu Dhabi
 - SOP for Permitting of Industrial, Commercial and Light Industrial Facilities in Abu Dhabi
 - SOP for Permitting of Chemicals and Hazardous Materials in Abu Dhabi Emirate

Overview of Updates

- Technical Guidance documents for environmental studies
 - Preliminary Environmental Review (PER)
 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
 - Terms of Reference for EIA and SEA (TOR)

Overview of Updates

- Technical Guidance documents for environmental management plans required at the various stages of a projects life cycle
 - Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
 - Operation Environmental Management Plan (OEMP)
 - Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)
 - Environmental Action Plan (EAP)

Overview of Updates

□ Other documents

- SOP for Registration of Environmental Consultancy Offices in Abu Dhabi Emirate
- Technical Guidance Document for Submission of Environmental Permit Applications and Environmental Studies

What has changed?

- Documents have been updated to reflect international best practices and procedures
- Changes include both new documents and significant revisions to existing documents
- Examples of significantly revised documents:
 - Technical Guidance Document for PER reports has been expanded
 - Significant revisions to the requirements for SEA

What has changed?

- Examples of new documents:
 - New Technical Guidance Document for TOR provides a clear description of what EAD requires prior to preparation of an EIA or SEA
 - New Technical Guidance Document for SEA
 - Greater emphasis on the potential for environmental impact during the decommissioning phases of facilities and projects with the introduction of a new Technical Guidance Document for DEMP
 - Environmental Baseline Audit (EBA) has been replaced by the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) as a mechanism for implementing corrective actions at existing facilities and project sites

SOP for Registration of ECOs

- Updated SOP for Registration of Environmental Consultancy Offices in the Abu Dhabi Emirate
 - Defines the EAD procedures for evaluating, classifying and registering environmental consultancy offices (ECOs) working in the Emirate
 - Based on the requirements of Administrative Resolution No. (7) of 2006, which was issued to regulate the accreditation and registration of consulting offices operating in the environmental field in the Abu Dhabi Emirate

SOP for Registration of ECOs

- Registered ECOs are permitted to work in a range of areas of environmental expertise
- Classification of the ECO is based on various factors, including staff qualifications, project experience and the number and quality of completed projects or assignments
- Registration as an EAD-approved ECO is required before a consultant can prepare environmental studies and reports requested by EAD
- An ECO must also be registered with EAD in order to perform monitoring, auditing and remediation activities

Guidance Document for Submissions to EAD

- New Technical Guidance Document for Submission of Environmental Permit Applications and Studies
 - Provides instructions for the submission of permit applications to EAD, including applications for consultant registration
 - Outlines the requirements for preparation and submission of environmental studies
 - Outlines the requirements for requests to EAD for data, including environmental baseline data

Where to get information...

- A copy of the launch ceremony presentations and the SOP and Technical Guidance documents will be available on the EAD website:

www.ead.ae