

Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan

What is a DEMP?

The Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) is a site-specific plan developed to ensure that appropriate environmental management practices are followed during the decommissioning phase of a project. The DEMP details all remediation, restoration, site control, and monitoring activities that will continue once the immediate decommissioning activities are completed. The DEMP is designed to eliminate long-term liability issues for the proponent that are related to the project site.

When is it required?

Upon review of an environmental permit application, the Environment Agency—Abu Dhabi (EAD) may require the preparation and submission of a DEMP for an industrial or development project. As a general guideline, a DEMP is usually required for the following:

- Projects originally required to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment
- Projects involving buildings contaminated with asbestos materials and/or lead-based paint
- Projects involving the removal of organic liquids, hazardous materials, or hazardous wastes
- Projects generating in excess of 100 m³ of waste
- Projects in which more than 50% of exterior walls are demolished
- Projects in which the land area is greater than 2,000 m²
- Project sites in which residual impacts may pose a threat to the environment or in which contamination levels exceed regulatory limits

However, EAD will review each application on a case-by-case basis.

Why is it required?

Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 for the Protection and Development of the Environment requires that the operation of various establishments does not directly or indirectly cause pollution of the land, water, or air environments. As the competent authority for implementation of Federal Law No. 24 within the Abu Dhabi Emirate, EAD may require a DEMP as a mechanism for controlling environmental impacts throughout the decommissioning phase of a project and for the long-term use of the project site.

Who prepares it?

The DEMP should be prepared by an EAD-approved consultant engaged by the project proponent. The DEMP must be submitted to EAD for approval prior to the scheduled commencement of decommissioning.

What happens next?

Upon submission of the DEMP, EAD will review the document and provide a written response to the proponent. EAD may seek clarifications or revisions to the DEMP. The proponent must provide EAD with any requested information or, at a minimum, a written response to the comments.

Following approval of the DEMP, EAD will issue an official letter of approval so that decommissioning activities can commence at the project site. No decommissioning activities can take place prior to receiving permission by EAD.

Further information?

For further information, refer to the *Technical Guidance Document for Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan*, visit the EAD Web site, or contact EAD Customer Service.