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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Harmonized
Environmental Impact Assessment in the ESCWA Region and
Thematic Round Table on Regional Preparations for the 2002
Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development
Beirut, 9-13 April 2001

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/ENR/2001/WG.1/CP.3
12 April 2001
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LIBRARY & DOCUMENT SECTION
27 APR 2001

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN QATAR

by

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01-0416

Environmental Impact Assessment in Qatar

I. Background

At present, Law No. 11 of 2000 is the main environmental legislation for industrial pollution control. It establishes the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves. Article 3 (6) of the law requires that all new projects are cleared from the environmental angle by the Supreme Council.

The EIA section of the General Secretariat participates closely with industries in Qatar for implementing environmental regulations. It has been agreed with the different ministries that all major environment-related decisions should be taken jointly through an Environmental Technical Committee (ETC). The ETC now has representatives from all major industries and also the General Secretariat.

A procedure for environmental clearance for new, large industries was brought out in 1997. This was discussed in the ETC and notified as a requirement for all new projects. A major issue that is examined in the EIA is the technology for the proposed industry. Currently emissions and effluent requirements are expected to be better than those prescribed in the standards owing to improvements in current technology and requirements of the present environment. No fees, however, are currently being charged for examination of the EIA.

Small companies proposing to the established also go through an environmental examination. The process is much simpler and usually requires only seven days to clear a project after submission of the application in a specified form. Both large and small industries need to comply with the conditions of the environmental clearance which are regularly followed up by the technical staff of the General Secretariat.

The EIA procedure was brought out in 1997 by the team Environment Department under an enabling provision of Law No. 4 of 1981. This law has been repealed and substituted by Law No. 11 of 2000 under which the Supreme Council. The EIA procedure is to be shortly legislated. The terms of the procedure remain the same. These are given below.

II. Environment Impact Assessment Procedure

1. This procedure is brought out consequent upon the legal requirements of the State for polluting industries to conduct an environmental impact assessment (Law No. 4, 1981), the policy of the State and its commitment to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992. This will be preceded by the continuous coordination between the Planning and environmental aspects, specially of those listed in the Schedule.

2. Requirements and procedure for seeking environmental clearance of projects:

The attached flowchart depicts the overall procedures to be adopted.

- (i) Those seeking environmental clearance would need to submit the attached form entitled, 'application form for initial environmental authorization'.

This form should be forwarded to the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves by the nodal department. The nodal department will be the sole direct interface with the proponent applying for license for a specific project. The department would also coordinate the environmental issues during planning of the project. It will also ensure that the site for the project proponent until the environmental procedures and precautions are addressed. The nodal department would include the compliance to the environmental conditions in the performance bond of the project.

On examination of the form, the project would either be cleared from an environmental angle or the project proponent would be informed of the need for an EIA and seek possible sites from Planning Department/nodal department for the proposed project. Once possible sites have been identified the scope of the EIA would be prepared in consultation with an expert committee. In either case, copies of the decision would be given to the nodal department. The project proponent would arrange to prepare the EIA report and submit it to the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves. The environmental clearance would be given after due examination of the EIA in consultation with the expert committee. Clearance from environmental angle to an EIA may be required for such projects as given in the Schedule.

The project authorities would not initiate any civil works until the project has been appraised and an environmental clearance has been issued.

- (ii) Apart from the EIA, the following information would be provided by the project authorities :-

- a. 'No objection' from the nodal department, such as Industrial Development for industries, Civil, Aviation Department for airports, Ports, Maritime Affairs & Land Transport for roads, ports and jetties and Electricity & Water for thermal power and desalination plants. This no-objection should state that the project satisfies all the requirements of the concerned

departments and construction would be taken up on the project being cleared from the environmental angle.

- b. Summary of project report/feasibility report.
 - c. Comprehensive rehabilitation plan, if displacement of people is involved.
 - d. Commitment of the Ministry of Electricity and Water to provide these utilities for the unit's requirements, where applicable.
 - e. Risk analysis report for units dealing with hazardous industries.
 - f. An environment management plan for mining projects.
 - g. A statement from the Planning Department indicating that the proposed unit falls in an approved zone on the basis of land use.
3. (i) The proposal would be appraised within thirty days after the receipt of the requisite documents and data from the project authorities.
- (ii) The EIA report and the information submitted by the authorities would be examined in the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves in consultation with the expert Committee.
- (iii) This Committee would consider the reports submitted. It may also visit the proposed site if it so desires and meet with the project authorities prior to coming to a decision.

Thereafter, the conditions under which the project is approved or the reason for its rejection would be communicated to the project authorities in writing.

- (iv) If the proposal is rejected because of insufficient data, the case would be considered for appraisal when such data are submitted.
- (v) The Committee if it so desires, may get the comments of any person who may be affected by the project or may have expertise on the process if the Committee feels would be useful before coming to a decision.
- (vi) The clearance would be granted for a sanctioned capacity and for the process specified.

Any change in either of these would be effected only after the approval of the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves.

- (vii) New projects are required to submit a performance bond with the nodal department or other Government authorities before initiating the project. This bond would henceforth include the conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance to the proposed projects. This would be to ensure that the project proponent complies with the requirements of environmental management. Therefore, the performance bonds which are normally submitted for governmental projects should satisfy the requirements of this sector without an increase in the value of the bond.
 - (viii) In case the project proponent is aggrieved by a decision of the the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves, he may seek a redressal by making an appeal in writing to the Chairman of the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves within fourteen days of receiving the decision of the Supreme Council.
- 4.
- (i) The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves through its officers, would carry out regular inspection of the project during its construction to ensure that the condition specified in the clearance letter are incorporated.
 - (ii) Any deviation from the conditions specified, without the prior concurrence of the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves, would render the clearance being withdrawn.
 - (iii) Any deliberate submission of false data would render the project being rejected.
 - (iv) The project authorities would inform the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves before commissioning the project and also apply for a "consent to operate" The officers of the Supreme Council would inspect the project at this stage to ensure that all the prescribed conditions have been incorporated and initiate action on the application for the permit.
5. The project authorities may consult the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves on the scope of the EIA ,the contents and methods of preparing the reports.

Schedule

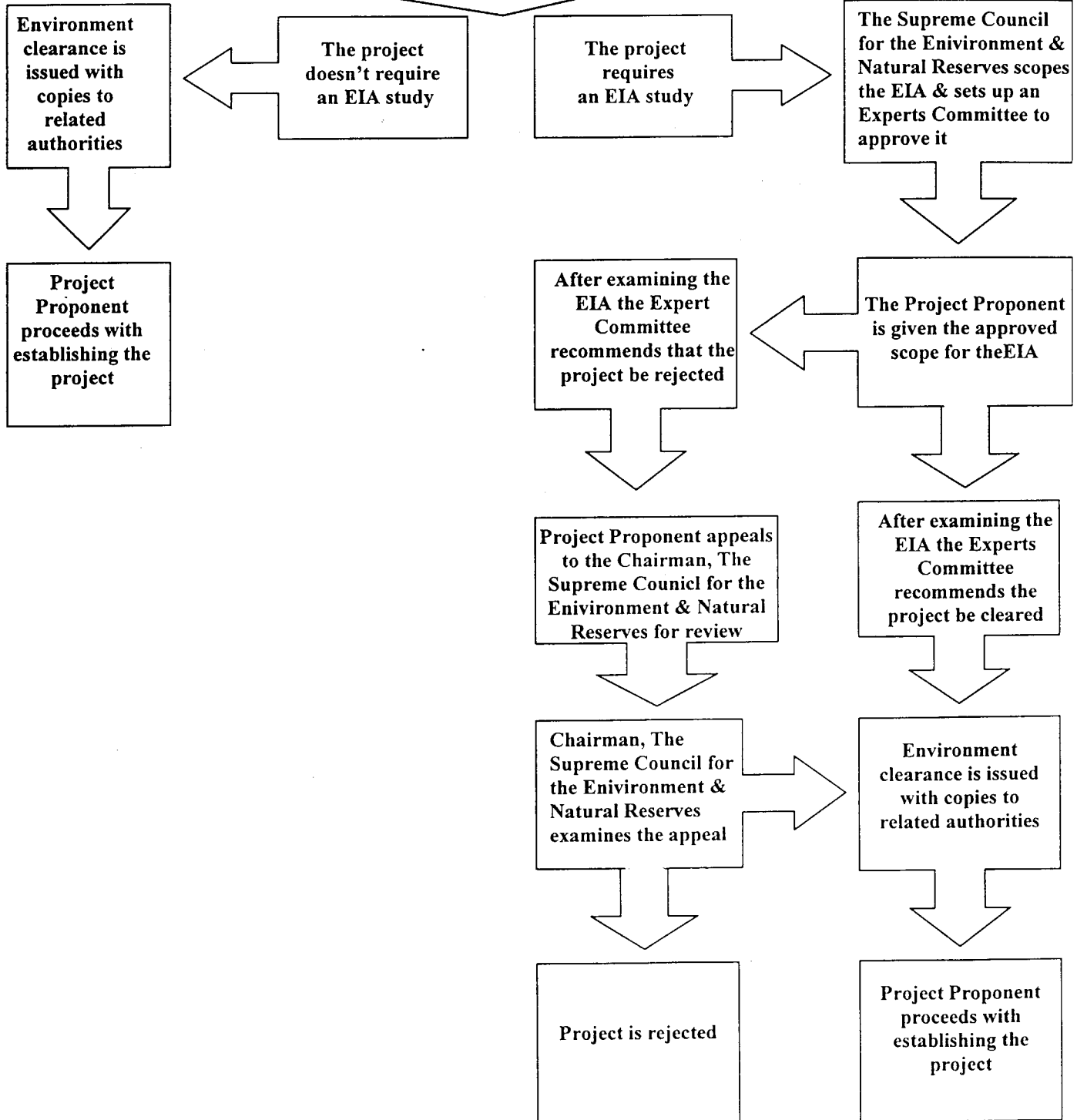
List of specific projects required to submit an environmental impact assessment report in order to obtain a clearance from an environmental angle.

Specific projects

1. Oil extraction and transportation.
2. Oil refining and distillation facilities.
3. Cement plants.
4. Petroleum storage of capacity greater than 2000 cubic meters.
5. Metallurgical industries for benefaction on smelting of primary metal.
6. Mining projects.
7. Hazardous waste disposal or treatment facilities.
8. Chemical and petrochemical industries, including intermediates and basic plastics.
9. Thermal power and desalination plants.
10. High voltage transmission networks.
11. Projects which may affect ground water including irrigation and drainage projects.
12. Ports, harbours and airports.
13. Fertilizer projects.
14. Urban development projects including major highways, industrial parks townships, reclamation projects regional shopping centers and high density residential projects (over 80 units/ha).
15. Other projects which may generates electromagnetic or radioactive emissions.
16. Other coastal and off-shore projects.

Flowchart for environmental clearance

Project Proponent submits "application form for initial environmental authorization" to The Supreme Council for the Environment & Natural Reserves



III. Problems related to implementation of EIA Policy and how these are overcome.

(a) Political :

At the initial stages of implementation, the Environment Department was formed under the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture. As such other departments in the Ministry and other ministries tended to use their about in pushing their projects by circumventing the procedure.

This was stopped in two ways :

Firstly, lending institutions require that projects conduct an EIA and secondly the Supreme Council has now become independent of the Ministry and this had the necessary effect in demanding compliance from different sections in the Government.

(b) Financial:

In Qatar large scale projects which require an EIA obtain loans from lending institutions .These institutions require an environmental clearance which is issued by the Supreme Council for Environment and Natural Reserves . Therefor the financial issue is not an obstacle in EIA implementation.

(c) Legislative :

The necessary legislation covering EIA is currently being upgraded in which penalties, fines and imprisonment have been substatialy enhanced from earlier levels which were almost negligible. This would act as a deterrent to avoid EIA procedure.

(d) Public participation :

Public hearing of projects is not being carried out mainly because of the size of the country and the current levels of awareness. However, every effort is made in bringing persons from non-governmental organizations and affected parties to sit on EIA Committees. This has been found to be very useful.

(IV) Harmonised policy and standards

It is necessary that the regions has a harmonised policy and standards in order to make investments more competitive compared to other parts of the world.

The State of Qatar has its own its own environmental protection standards. These were brought out in 1998. The Environment Department examined various international standards and finally decided to issue draft standards based on those of the World Bank. The reasons for doing these were :

- (i) These were very recent, brought out during 1997 – 1998;

- (ii) There were easily achievable, since these were aimed at developing countries;
- (iii) These were familiar to all major financial lending agencies.

The draft standards were examined by the ETC before they were issued in order to obtain the commitment of the industry.

Once the agreed standards were issued it was necessary that the environmental status of the existing industries were verified for compliance through an environmental monitoring programme (EMP). The requirements of an EMP for each company has been discussed. In some cases, companies were already complying with the standards, in other cases the monitoring data showed non-compliance and time was needed for the industries to comply with the standards, and still in other cases, it was necessary to get the basic data required for setting up a monitoring programme.



الإمانة العامة

المجلس الأعلى للبيئة والمحميات الطبيعية
The Supreme Council For The Environment & Natural Reserves

استمارة طلب الحصول على تصريح بيئي أولي
**APPLICATION FORM FOR INITIAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION**

رقم الطلب

1. نوع المشروع
Project type

On-shore ساحلي New جديد
Off-shore بحري Existing موجود

استبدال موقع Relocation	تجديد Renovation	توسعة Expansion

2. أسم المشروع :

Project Name

3. موقع المشروع :

Project Location

Please attach a detailed site plan and locality plan

الرجاء إرفاق مخطط تفصيلي للموقع والمكان المخطط

4. طبيعة المشروع :

Nature of project

صناعي Industry	زراعي Agriculture	بنية أساسية Infrastructure	أخرى * Others *

* Please Specify

5. عدد العاملين :

No. Of Employees

General Secretariat

تليفون : 4437171 - فاكس : 4415246 - ص. ب. : 7634 - الدوحة - قطر
Tel. : 4437171 - Fax : 4415246 - P. O. Box : 7634 - DOHA - QATAR

٩. المخلفات :

Waste

وسيلة التحكم/التصريف Control/Discharge Method	الكمية (يومياً) m ³ /day or kg/day	أهم المكونات Major Constituents	النوع Type
			غازية Gas
			سائلة Liquid
			صلبة Solid

١٠. تكاليف حماية البيئة بالنسبة لرأس المال :

Cost of environmental protection.

	التكلفة الخاصة للتحكم في التلوث (ريال قطري) Cost of pollution control (QR)
	رأس المال (ريال قطري) Capital investment (QR)

أقر هنا بأن المعلومات الواردة صحيحة وكاملة بكل المعايير

I hereby declare that the above is true, complete and correct in every respect.

Name :	الإسم :
Position :	الوظيفة :
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Fax :	فاكس :
Telephone :	تيلفون :
Signature With Stamp :	التوقيع والختم :
Date :	التاريخ :

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