O29NEM13

Final Environmental Statement reporting, communication and follow up

Overview

This standard is one of three related standards that together cover Environmental Impact Assessment. They describe the requirements to plan and conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and to produce an Environmental Statement (ES). The series covers the following:

Standard EM11 - Prepare, screen and scope an Environmental Impact Assessment
Standard EM12 - Co-ordination and management of the assessment process and initial Environmental Statement compilation
Standard EM13 - Final Environmental Statement reporting, communication and follow up.

These three standards do not outline the detailed requirements for specialist environmental assessment topics but they do focus on the project management, co-ordination and delivery of the EIA process stages.
EIA is a systematic process to identify, predict, evaluate and communicate the environmental effects of proposed actions and projects. The key stages of EIA are:

Proposal identification
Screening
Scoping
Impact analysis
Mitigation
Preparation of Environmental Statement
Review
Decision-making
Follow up

As a minimum, consultation with statutory bodies and interested parties should take place at the scoping and review stages of EIA. It should be stressed that whilst EIA is a statutory process for some developments, it is not strictly a linear process. EIA is a dynamic and iterative process requiring interaction between stages as the assessment progresses, with feedback loops enabling project proposals to be refined and adapted in response to the findings of the assessment.

Standard EM13 covers the main process of final delivery of the Environmental Statement, review of the Statement, decision-making on development consent, and agreement of follow-up measures.
This standard would be appropriate for:

? A developer with responsibility for commissioning or managing an EIA
? An environmental consultant or advisor with responsibility for co-ordinating either:
o the full EIA process on behalf of a developer, or
o final stages EIA stages following the production of the Environmental statement

This standard is relevant as supporting information if you are:

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A specialist providing input and contributory sections for the ES
A statutory or non-statutory consultee engaged within the EIA process and responses to the final ES
An officer from a consenting authority responsible for case work requiring EIA
An individual responsible for reviewing an ES

Performance criteria		
You must be able to:	P1	Manage the communication of the final draft Environmental Statement to the developer for review and sign off
	P2	Manage the communication of the ES, plans and reports to all required and interested parties
	P3	Communicate and explain ES outcomes to all required and interested parties
	P4	Respond to any independent review of the ES and to issues and questions raised by statutory and other bodies
	P5	Work with the developer, consenting authorities and others to resolve any issues
	P6	Work with and advise the developer on the development and implementation of consenting conditions and/or planning agreements as they relate to mitigation and monitoring
	P7	If required, work with developer on longer term follow up measures

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1	The purpose of EIA and its relationship to the planning process
K2	The required stages of EIA and statutory procedures
K3	National and sector legislation, national and regional policy statements and guidance on EIA
K4	Possible environmental impacts arising from different forms of development
K5	Legal consents applicable to the operation, post EIA
K6	The legal requirements for ES content and best practice standards for ES format and structure
K7	Awareness of specialist assessment methods and the potential cumulative interactions between EIA topics
K8	How to specify, procure and direct specialist input
K9	How to identify, develop and secure effective environmental mitigation and enhancements
K10	ES quality review methods
K11	When and how to communicate with required and interested parties
K12	How to manage a complex, dynamic and interrelated process

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