

Guide for an EIA Report

WATER SERVICES INDUSTRY ACT 2006

GUIDE FOR DETERMINING THE NEED FOR AN EIA

Developments of certain criteria will require an EIA study that covers its sewerage works proposals. The EIA must be submitted and approved by the Department of Environment (DOE) prior to detail sewerage works planning approval. However, regardless of the type and size of a development, all sewerage works will need to submit a complete *Environmental Criteria Evaluation* form.

Development EIA

As per the Environmental Quality Order (Prescribed Activities) (Environmental Impact Assessment), 1988, Schedule 7, for a development that covers an area of 50 hectares or greater, the developer must obtain an EIA approval for the entire project. A section of the assessment must cover the sewerage aspects of the development, which includes the network system, sewage treatment plants, and/or sludge treatment facilities. The EIA must address land area requirements for the STP and ensure sufficient buffer to minimize impact onto its surrounding developments. Buffer requirements as stipulated in this guideline must be addressed.

Preliminary EIA

All STPs constructed by government or its appointed agents, and STPs constructed by developers which are given permanent status and to be handed over as regional public STPs would require a separate preliminary EIA approval from DOE.

Environmental Criteria Evaluation

The purpose of this criteria checklist is to ensure that the environmental impacts associated with the plant are minimized when the plant becomes operational. The evaluation includes issues on siting the plant, water quality and design with environmental considerations.

Procedure for EIA Approval for Development

EIAs shall be prepared according to the DOE's guidelines and requirements covering all aspects of sewerage works which includes network, sewage treatment plant and/or sludge treatment facilities, where applicable.

The Commission shall be informed of any submissions to the DOE and a copy must be attached with other application documents. The same shall be done once the EIA approval is received from the DOE, highlighting the approval conditions. This is necessary, as EIA approval is part of the Commission sewerage works approval procedure.

Note: All developments which do not fit the above development criteria are exempted from EIA requirements.