

Major Points of Amendment to the Basic Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment

1. Amendments related to guidelines for selecting items and methods of environmental impact assessment (EIA)
 - Survey, forecast and evaluation of selected items categorized in “place for enjoying nature” should be conducted with grasping utilization state of facility and place as well as its status.
 - Survey, forecast and evaluation of selected items categorized in “wastes” should be conducted with grasping its generation and its final disposal quantity.
 - Information on nature of a project should include history and content of discussion for environmental conservation measures during the course of developing the project.
 - Information on regional characteristics should include not only the current status but also changes in the past and future prospect.
 - For selected items and methods of EIA, reasons for selection should be disclosed.
 - If any advises were given from experts on the course of the selection of items and methods of EIA, content of the advise and specialized field of the experts concerned should be disclosed.
 - “Standard item” and “standard method” provided by the competent Minister shall be “reference item” and “reference method” respectively.
 - “Content of standard project by the type of project subject to EIA” taken into account in setting up “reference items” shall be disclosed.
 - When selecting items and methods, project and regional characteristics and information acquired on the course of scoping document preparation shall be taken into consideration while respecting “reference items” and “reference methods”.
 - As a course of the project subject to EIA, if any structure in the project site is removed or abolished as a part of the project or if any structure which is included in the purpose of the project is removed or abolished after the project, impacts related to removal or abolishment shall be classified as impact factors.
 - When regional characteristics are considered in selecting survey methods, changes in regional characteristics with time lapse should be included.
 - Survey to be conducted during the course of the whole year shall start when fluctuation of survey result seems to be small, if necessary.
 - Period for forecast of impacts after the commencement of the service shall, if possible, cover the times when the impact seems to be at maximum, as well as in constant status.
 - If a land in the project site is expected to be used before the completion of construction, necessary forecast shall be conducted.
 - Forecast result and its relation with precondition, basic units and parameters used shall be organized so that they can be disclosed together.
 - Forecast of environmental status shall be conducted by disclosing future environmental status of region which may be influenced by activities not included in the subjected project.
 - To comprehend uncertainty of the forecast, degree of uncertainty shall be obtained from the variation of forecast results deriving from different precondition applied for forecast

process.

- Grounds and procedures of the evaluation procedures shall be disclosed.
- Standards and objectives referred in the course of the evaluation shall be disclosed.
- For environmental factors which the environmental quality standards are set for and may be subject to long-term impact in undertaking the construction work, consistency with the environmental quality standards concerned shall be checked.
- Difference between “content of standard project by the type of project subject to EIA”, which was basis for setting reference item and method, and those of actual individual project shall be studied.

2. Amendments related to guideline for environmental conservation measures

- If an alternative measure is to be implemented, its effectiveness and the reasons for deeming it feasible shall be disclosed specifically as possible.
- When deliberation for environmental conservation measures are conducted in phases, concrete content of the environmental conservation measures for each phase shall be disclosed.
- If environmental conservation measures are to be detailed during construction or after commencement of service, the need for post-project survey should be discussed according to the seriousness of environmental impacts.
- When a compensatory measure is implemented, the need for post-project survey should be discussed according to the seriousness of impacts based on the degree of uncertainty of results and availability of knowledge on the compensatory measure.