

Communities consultation

Community Consultation in Environmental Impact Studies

The Citizen Participation Regulation for Hydrocarbon Activities approved by Supreme Decree N° 012-2008-EM and the Guidelines for Citizen Participation in Hydrocarbon Activities approved by R.M. N°571-2008-MEM/DM, are instruments to regulate and strengthen the right of access to information, the stakeholder participation in social and environmental management, as well as the respect to indigenous population rights during the preparation of Environmental Impact Studies.

- Citizen Participation Plan (CPP)

It's a document whereby the responsible party of the hydrocarbon project describes the measures and mechanisms aimed to inform the population about the project. There are two types:

1. CPP during the development and evaluation of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS).
2. CPP after the EIS approval, which will be carried out along the project life cycle, and is part of the EIS Community Relations Plan.

- Purpose and Nature of Participation

Consultation is a form of stakeholder participation that seeks to determine whether the interests of people living in the area of direct influence of an oil project could be affected, so that, before undertaking or permitting any activity, the main concerns expressed regarding potential social, economic, environmental and cultural factors are known and discussed before its implementation.

This process is designed to inform and collect suggestions on measures that technically and objectively will allow preventing or mitigating negative environmental and social impacts. It shall also identify and gather initiatives, suggestions and contributions to enhance or maximize the positive environmental and social impacts of the project. This process ensures the State's interest to promote wider stakeholder participation, by receiving comments and opinions, with the purpose of being evaluated by the competent authority.

- Rights of the populations involved

Consultation is a form of stakeholder participation and it's a right of the people involved. This should be done in good faith and in an appropriate manner, according to the circumstances, with the aim of reaching better understanding of the project scope and benefits.

- Area of Influence

It's the geographical area on which the hydrocarbon activities shall cause significant impact. There are two types of area of influence defined by norms:

1. Area of Direct Influence: is that area in which the hydrocarbons activity will be carried out.
2. Area of Indirect influence: these are the areas adjacent to the project

Along the public participation process, in regards to EIS preparation and evaluation, the CPP will set the boundaries of the area of direct and indirect influence and the criteria used to define them.

- Required Mechanisms for Stakeholder Participation

Are those that must necessarily be performed during the processing and evaluation of the EIS.

The objective is to achieve more active people's involvement in the EIS, as well as establishing a forum for direct dialogue between people and authority, so that it receives the highest inputs to decide on the environmental study under consideration. It includes:

1. **Information Workshop:** This mechanism is designed to provide information and to open a dialogue on the EIS, as well as offering environmental management instruments among the State, the operator, and the people involved, in regards to the project, its potential impacts and the prevention and control and mitigation measures to be taken. In addition, information workshops aim to get local perception and provide objective and first hand information on the project and identify specific measures to manage the relationship with local population, to carry out the project within the regulatory framework and encourage community's sustainable development.

The information gathered in the workshops may be used by the General Directorate of Energy Environmental Affairs (DGAA) to improve the environmental mitigation and control measures, the Community Relations Plan, among other aspects that shall be defined in the EIS or other environmental management tools.

2. **Public Hearing:** It's a public presentation of the EIS, conducted by a representative of the DGAA. Comments and suggestions from participants are registered in order to be included in the EIS evaluation, and to be taken in to consideration in DGGA's observations report.

- Terms of Reference – ToR

It's the EIS's presentation document and it includes: project description, minimum requirements of the consulting firm that conducts the EIS, scope of the study, activities to develop, working methods, facilities, working schedule to prepare the study, equipment and materials to be used, among others.

- Environmental Impact Study – EIS

Study that should be carried out prior to start any hydrocarbon related activity, new or upgrade, and that shall cover physical, natural, biological, socioeconomic and cultural aspects in the area of influence. The EIS aims to determine existing conditions and environmental capabilities, as well as providing effects and consequences of carrying out such activity. Control measures to be applied shall be included in order to achieve a harmonious development between the activity and the environment. The EIS must include the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for both the installation and operation phases, as well as the corresponding abandonment plan.