

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A key requirement in the development of many power sector projects is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), comprising a set of environmental studies agreed with relevant consultees to demonstrate that a proposed project does not give rise to significant environmental effects.

At WPA, we see EIA as an integral part of the development process and the team has decades of experience in environmental and social impact studies. This experience has covered all manner of projects including conventional thermal power plant (including coal CCGT, OCGT and oil), biomass and Energy from Waste power plant, renewables (including wind, solar and tidal), transmission lines (over and under-ground lines, and interconnectors) and gas pipelines. To date our team experience covers some 20 GW of power generating plants worldwide.

Within the European Union the need for an EIA is addressed by Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of certain public and private projects on the environment — “The EIA Directive”. Internationally, most governments apply similar requirements and groups, such as the International Finance Corporation and World Bank, have specific requirements and guidance. Therefore, whilst the process is different in every country, it inevitably includes a number of key stages. The WPA team are able to assist over all these key stages, adapting to the requirements of the relevant authorities and stakeholders, to provide an efficient and effective service.



Initial Project Review

In selecting a preferred development option from a range of alternatives, it is important to collect and review available / published information to identify any key technical / environmental / planning parameters which are likely to influence selection. The WPA team are able to prepare Initial Review and Evaluation Reports (also known as Fatal Flaw Analysis Reports) to aid in the selection process.

Environmental Screening Support

Within the various relevant development-specific EIA Regulations, certain projects are always considered to be “EIA development”, whilst some projects are only considered to

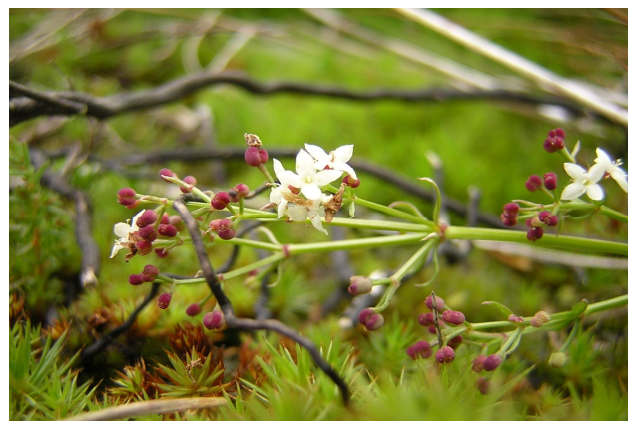
be EIA development if they are likely to have “significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location”.

At WPA, we believe that developments are often the subject of an EIA because the consultants engaged are unable to appreciate and convey the nature of the likely associated impacts. The WPA team are able to prepare environmental screening requests and engage with the relevant authorities to secure screening opinions which reflect the specific impacts of a development, such that any assessment can proceed in an informed and appropriate manner.

Environmental Scoping Support

In the event that an EIA is required, consultation on its associated scope is necessary.

The WPA team are able to prepare environmental scoping requests to establish the key aspects of the environment on which the EIA should focus and the studies that must be undertaken. As for screening requests, we feel it is vital that any environmental scoping properly reflects the specific impacts of a development, such that any assessment can proceed in an informed and appropriate manner.



Environmental Baseline Evaluation & Impact Assessment

In the development of all power sector projects, it is important to identify the environmental baseline conditions at the site being considered. This allows the impact assessment to be undertaken in the light of the existing baseline and enables better identification of the most appropriate mitigation (or monitoring) measures which could be employed to minimise any identified significant impacts.

The WPA team, and their associates, are able to offer a wide range of specialist environmental services across a broad range of disciplines including:

- Air quality;
- Noise and vibration;
- Ecology and ornithology;
- Geology, hydrogeology and hydrology;
- Contaminated land;
- Landscape and visual;
- Traffic, transport and infrastructure; and
- Archaeology and cultural heritage.

Based on the identified environmental baseline, the WPA team, and their associates, are able to provide a comprehensive impact assessment (in accordance with relevant legislation /

guidance to determine any necessary mitigation measures or monitoring measures which should be implemented.

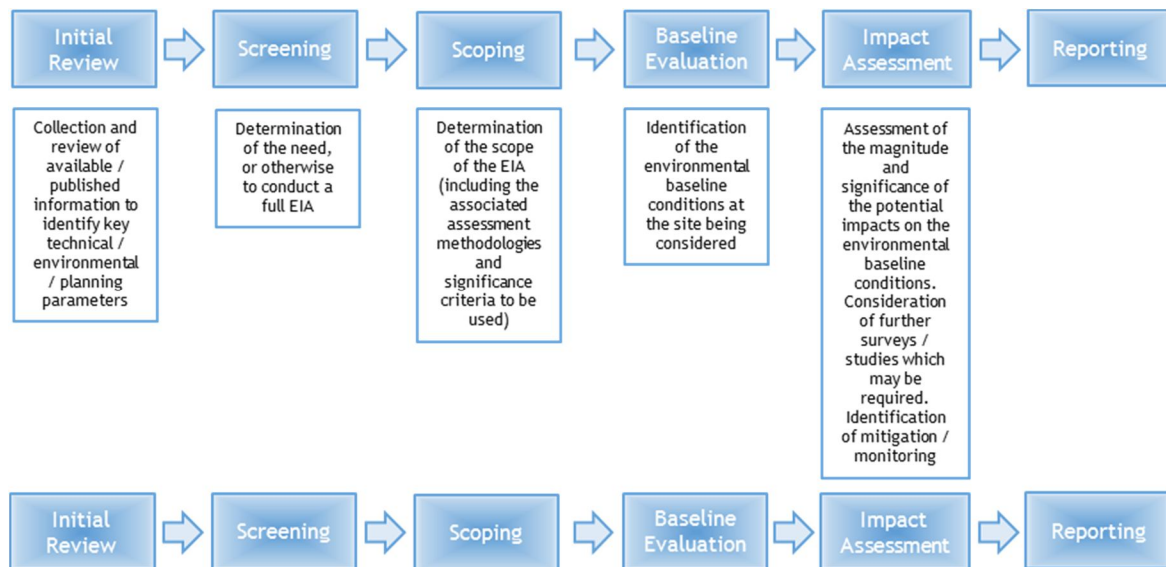
In addition, the WPA team are also able to offer technology-specific environmental services, such as glint and glare assessments for solar parks and shadow flicker studies for wind farms.

Consultation Support

The EIA Directive seeks to ensure that the decision making process enables the public to express opinions and concerns, and that the decision maker takes these into account. Therefore allowing an accountable and transparent decision making process, whilst also promoting public awareness of environmental issues.

As a result, public consultation events are now seen as a vital stage in the development of projects where developers are able to: raise awareness of the project; receive comments on the project and the scope of the EIA; and, establish the concerns of the local community in order that they can be addressed.

Having organised and attended numerous public consultation events, the WPA team are able to provide advice and support to developers in this regard.



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