

Echallalate Wastewater Treatment Plant (Under Construction, near Mohammedia)

ECHALLALATE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Echallalate Wastewater Treatment Plant is being constructed in the peri-urban area between Mohammedia and Casablanca. The ONEE is overseeing construction by a Portugal-based EPC contractor, Eusibios-Equisan. Raw wastewater is pumped to the treatment plant via two pump stations and treated wastewater is discharged to a small stream approximately 2 kms from the site.

Currently excavations are being completed in preparation for the pouring of concrete basins and structures. Site work will be completed by the end of March. The project will be completed in June 2014.

Context/Known Issues. The treatment plant is located in a semi-rural area adjacent to not only agricultural fields but also industrial sites. For example, a large integrated steel mill is located between the highway and the treatment plant. Sheep and goats were noted in the area.

An old house, apparently from the French colonial period, is located adjacent to the site. Construction laborers are living in the house.

According to the ONEE, the property was purchased from the municipality for a minor fee and no residents were relocated for the project. It appears that there was a temporary weekly market that was relocated from the site prior to construction.

Safety issues associated with the construction include control of the site, and excavation safety. The entire site is fenced and gated. The open excavations appeared to be secured against accidental entrance; however, it is expected that various health and safety issues may be noted during the visit.

The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant will enter a local stream. There may be informal uncontrolled reuse of the treated water for agricultural irrigation either at the discharge point or of the untreated wastewater upstream of the treatment plant. (There has been evidence of this issue at other treatment plants in Morocco.)