

## Sessions 7A&B.

(4:45)

# Field Visit I: Practicing Baseline Characterization, Identifying Issues of Concern & Mitigation Design

### Objectives

Conduct mentored field observations to build and apply the core EIA skills briefed in Session 5.

Further build and apply these core EIA skills by (1) synthesizing field observations, and (2) with reference to the *Small-Scale Guidelines*, identifying possible mitigation measures to respond to issues of concern.

### Format:

0:30 classroom briefing + preparation

3:00 site visit (including transit)

1:15 classroom follow up (working groups) and synthesis (plenary)

### Summary/Instructions

Session 5A presented the basic theory of baseline characterization and impact evaluation. At the start of the day tomorrow, we will address the principles of mitigation design in session 5B.

This session, which involves a field visit and classroom follow-up, practices these skills. We will:

1. Identify key elements of the baseline situation at the visited sites.
2. Identify and evaluate potential impacts/issues of concern of the ongoing activities at these sites.
3. Identify mitigation measures that have been put in place and their adequacy.
4. Identify mitigation measures that can improve the overall design/implementation of the activity and thus help reduce or alleviate potential adverse impacts.

By using sector guidance from the *Small-Scale Guidelines* as a key resource, the session also builds familiarity with the *Guidelines*.

### PART A—DAY 1

#### A.1 Briefing and Team Assembly (10 mins)

The facilitators will brief the site visit and divide us into working teams. The site(s) to be visited are briefed on the following pages.

#### A.2 Classroom Preparation (0:20)

As a team review the briefing for your site (following pages).

Identify the most critical potential environmental impacts of the activity(ies) you will encounter at your site, and other ways in which design and management of such activities can be environmentally UNsound.

*(Key reference: relevant chapter of the EGSSAA).*

Based on this discussion, **identify** together the most relevant elements of the baseline situation to observe and assess on our field visits.

(That is, what information does the team need to decide whether a *potential* impact or ESDM “deficit” is real and significant for the facility/site in question?)

For any sites that are already in operation or advanced construction, note that the baseline situation includes both the environment around the facility *and* the facility itself.

### **A.3. Field visit** (3:00, including travel time)

Each team will visit their assigned site where they will receive a guided tour, have the opportunity for independent observation, and have a question and answer session with their host.

During the site visit:

- **Observe & ask questions of the host:** (1) What exists and what is happening at the site (the baseline situation); (2) How has the activity at the site affected the environment? Do the issues appear serious? (3) Are there any mitigation measure in place to mitigate adverse impacts and how adequate are they?

(If relevant, also be on the lookout for hygiene or occupational safety and health issues that may not, strictly speaking, be environmental issues but may affect staff or community health and safety.)

- **(For some sites) Talk with & Listen to people at/around the site.** This will be accomplished through informal interviews with those you find around the site. Those to be consulted will include: the local community, government officers, some of your colleagues who may have had experiences with that project or similar ones). Remember to talk to both men and women and any disadvantaged groups.

*We may observe ESDM deficits at each site. But please remember that we visit as observers and invited guests, not auditors or inspectors. We should observe, listen, and by all means ask questions— but not offer criticism to our hosts.*

*Also, we must not give the impression that additional assistance will follow from our visit!*

## **PART B—DAY 2**

### **B.1 Classroom follow-up** (1:00)

Each team will re-convene in the classroom in the morning of Day 2. Using the information from the site visit, each team will:

- Organize and analyze the information/ data collected from the field to summarize (1) the most relevant elements of the baseline situation and (2) ongoing environmental management efforts and measures (if any).
- On this basis, decide which of the potential adverse impacts and other potential “ESDM failures” are real and present serious concerns.

- Of these, which are not being addressed with mitigation/environmental management measures? (Or are being inadequately addressed?)
- Suggest corrective measures (mitigation) to address these issues.

Teams should record their findings in bullet form. The relevant chapter of the *Small-Scale Guidelines* will be the key reference for potential impacts and mitigation measures. Facilitators will serve as resources throughout the process.

Note that:

- This session is intended to practice basic observation, impact identification and mitigation design skills—*not* to practice development of Reg. 216 environmental documentation.
- For any sites that are already in operation or advanced construction, this will not be a pre-implementation environmental review process; rather we are examining facilities already in place, and suggesting corrective measures.

Thus (for those who may already know these terms), team outputs are *not* expected to be in the form of an IEE outline or phrased in terms of “recommended determinations.”

## **B.2 Synthesis (0:15)**

Teams will not present their findings, but the facilitator will lead a brief synthesis session, soliciting a sample of individual and group comments and observations.