



Northern Territory Government

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment

PART B - GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF A DRAFT PUBLIC ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Biodiesel Plant – East Arm Port

Natural Fuel (Darwin) Pty Ltd

May 2004

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1 Purpose and Legislative Requirements

These Guidelines have been developed to assist Natural Fuels (Darwin) Pty Ltd in preparing a Public Environment Report (PER) for the proposed Biodiesel Plant at East Arm Port in accordance with Clause 8 of the Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures of *the Environmental Assessment Act (1982)* of the Northern Territory.

Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures of *the Environmental Assessment Act (1982)* of the Northern Territory state that the Minister will specify the following in the Guidelines:

- Matters relating to the environment which the proponent shall deal with;
- Timeframe for submitting the report;
- Number of copies of the report to be provided to minister/other agencies;and
- Newspapers in which and on occasions when the proponent will publish a notice.

These guidelines address the environmental issues to be considered in the PER. If guidance on the structure of the document is required, contact the nominated project officer.

The PER should contain sufficient information to enable understanding and assessment of the scope and environmental implications of the proposal. The PER should clearly identify the main environmental impacts associated with the development and should contain a management strategy to minimise these impacts.

Information should be presented in a concise format, using maps, overlays, tables and diagrams where appropriate to clarify the text.

2 The Proposal

This section should describe the development proposal to allow a detailed understanding of infrastructure design and engineering and all stages of construction, operation and management of the Scheme and include relevant plans, photos and maps. Aspects to be covered include:

- Provide an explanation of the objectives, benefits and justification for the project. The purpose of this is to place the proposal in the local and regional context;
- Project schedule, including staging of development and the timing of the stages;
- Location and design criteria for each component of the project including design limitations imposed by site characteristics;
- Land requirements, land tenure, acquisition requirements (permits, rezoning and Native Title), and the tenures under which the project would be held

including details of relevant legislative processes required to grant proposed tenure;

- Infrastructure requirements and specifications (permanent and temporary) and ancillary activities (eg storage areas etc);
- The layout of the proposal, including all elements such as processing facility, storage tanks, buildings, roads etc;
- Description of the engineering processes to produce the biodiesel, including all inputs and outputs of the process;
- Construction timing, methods, equipment and materials (types, sources and quantities) used and shift patterns;
- Identification of chemicals to be stored on site, including quantities;
- Methods for storage, handling, containment and emergency management of chemicals and other hazardous substances (including fuel);
- Proposed environmental, safety and emergency management arrangements including risk assessments, contingency and response plans;
- Rehabilitation commitments and timetables (for both temporary and permanent facilities) including waste management, pollution control, storage facilities, land stabilisation and rehabilitation plans (where appropriate); and
- Ongoing management, maintenance and administrative requirements.

3 ALTERNATIVES

Alternative proposals, which may still allow the objectives of the project to be met, should be discussed, detailing reasons for the selection and rejection of particular options. The short, medium and long-term potential beneficial and adverse impacts of each of the options should be considered.

Alternatives to be discussed should include:

1. not proceeding with the proposal;
2. alternative locations for components of the proposal;
3. alternative scenarios for development of port facilities;
4. alternatives to foreshore reclamation; and
5. alternative environmental management techniques.

4 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT, POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MANAGEMENT

4.1 Preliminary

Studies to describe the existing environment should be of a scope and standard sufficient to serve as a benchmark against which the impacts of the project may be assessed over an extended period. Control areas not impacted by the project should be included in proposed studies, and long-term monitoring locations should be established.

Detailed information is required on the following for each aspect of the project. Each element should be described, the impacts or potential impacts of the project considered. The safeguards, management and monitoring strategies that will be used to minimise the impacts of construction and operation of the proposal should be outlined.

4.2 Regional Setting

Describe the project area, in terms of broad climatic zones, land terrain types, regional population centres, land use, land sensitivities and Aboriginal relationships to the land including cultural values.

4.2.1 Landform

- Discuss limiting properties of landform considering the effect of settling on the development infrastructure.
- Outline measures to address landform limitations including land stability after reclamation.
- Outline measures to be used to demonstrate the land capability for this type of development.
- Outline erosion and sediment control management of the site.

4.2.2 Water

- Detail the water balance for the proposal – the total amount of water used and disposed of during the process.
- Provide a characterisation of all wastewater produced by the development.
- Describe the hydrodynamics adjacent to development area, considering the risk of oil, chemical or natural fuel spill.
- Describe any potential impacts on surface/ground/marine waters from the construction and operation of the proposal as well as diffuse and point source discharges.
- Undertake a risk assessment of the development on the adjacent aquatic system from diffuse sources of wastewater and run off (including spills).
- Outline proposed disposal of wastewater and describe the potential for impact on receiving environment.
- Detail proposed treatment and disposal of wastewater including preferred options and selection criteria.
- Outline stormwater management techniques.
- Outline measures to prevent diffuse sources of wastewater and contaminants entering Darwin Harbour.
- Outline spill containment and management measures.

4.2.3 Air Quality and Noise

- Describe background air quality and noise levels.
- Identify likely noise levels, timing and duration and comparison to current levels.
- Identify air emissions, including pollutant or emission type and likely concentrations.
- Identify the potential for odour generation from processing, storage of products and waste.
- Identify any greenhouse gas and ozone depletion emissions and describe the potential effects of climate change.
- Outline dust suppression and monitoring techniques, particularly during construction.
- Outline control measures for fugitive gaseous emissions, leakages.
- Outline pollution control measures for air emission treatment before discharge.
- Describe planning for future climatic changes.

4.2.4 Waste Management

- Identify and describe all sources of waste.
- Quantify and characterise all waste products.
- Outline waste storage and disposal options.
- Provide a waste management program including reduction, reuse, storage, transport and disposal including certification of acceptance by proposed disposal site of waste products.

5 PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Specific safeguards and controls, which would be employed to minimise or remedy environmental impacts, are to be outlined. These are to be covered in detail in the Environmental Management Plans (EMPs).

5.1 Environmental Management System (EMS)

1. It is recommended that the proponent develops and implements an Environmental Management System (EMS) for the project. The EMS should incorporate all facilities and operations associated with the project to an accepted standard commensurate with the risk of environmental harm. Accepted EMS standards are specified in:
 - AS/NZS ISO 14000 – Environmental Management System, Guidelines on Principles;
 - AS/NZS ISO 14001 – Environmental Management System, Specifications with guidance for Use; and
 - BS 7750 – Specifications for Environmental Management Systems.

5.2 Resourcing and Policies

Information is to be provided on strategic matters relating to environmental management and should include:

- staffing arrangements to ensure that the measures described in the report will be carried out effectively;
- procedures and instructions to employees on minimising unnecessary environmental impacts; and
- a staff induction and education program to ensure an informed response to construction and operational environmental concerns.

5.3 Environmental Management Plan

All environmental commitments made in the PER should be included and indexed in the Construction and Operational Environmental Management Plans. Monitoring and Reporting Strategies

Specific programs of monitoring or measuring the success of the Project's environmental management should be outlined. These should be covered in greater detail in the Environmental Management Plan.

6 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety issues pertaining to the design, construction and operational phases of the project, and the transport of construction materials, should be investigated. This should address issues concerning employees visiting the site and members of the public.

- Discuss issues relating to provision of emergency first aid treatment and transport of sick or injured persons to the nearest appropriate medical facility.
- Prepare a management and administration plan outlining strategies and procedures in the event of an emergency.

7 RISK ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

7.1 Risk Assessment

The Proponent shall carry out a Risk Assessment in accordance with appropriate guidelines of the responsible authority, where relevant.

While the PER must deal comprehensively with on site risks, it is suggested that external risks to the project also be considered. External risks from natural hazards should be determined on the basis of AS/NZS Risk Management Standard 4360:1999.

A review of potential hazards, accidents, during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases should be provided. The likelihood of an event, the possible consequences of the event and safeguards to be implemented to reduce the all-potential risks will be discussed in quantitative terms where possible.

7.2 Emergency Management

An outline of the proposed emergency management procedures is to be provided and should include for each site:

- contingency plans to deal with oil spills during construction, operation and maintenance of the project;
- contingency plans to account for natural disasters such as storms, floods and fires during the construction, operation and maintenance phases;
- ensure that development of emergency planning and response procedures are determined in consultation with regional emergency service providers; and
- include the relevant Commonwealth and Territory agencies in relation to emergency medical response and transport and first aid matters.

8 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND CONSULTATION

Public involvement and the role of government organisations should be clearly identified. The outcomes of surveys, public meetings and liaison with interested groups should be discussed and any resulting changes made to the proposal clearly identified. Details of any ongoing liaison should also be discussed.

Negotiations and discussions with local and community government, the Territory Government and the Commonwealth Government should be detailed and any outcomes referenced. Details of any ongoing negotiations and discussion with government agencies should also be presented.

9 ADMINISTRATION

9.1 PER Submission Timeframe

The PER submission date to be advised.

9.2 Number of Copies

25 hard copies, 7 CD copies 5 ADOBE *.pdf format and 1 unsecured word copy of the PER should be provided to the Office of Environment and Heritage (to allow placement on the Office's Internet site and to facilitate production of the Assessment Report and Recommendations).

Approximately 10 bound copies of the PER will be required for distribution to NT advisory bodies and public viewing locations (eg. libraries, council offices, etc.).

The proponent should also consider producing at least several copies for direct sale to the public, on request.

9.3 Advertising

The PER is to be advertised in *The Northern Territory News*.

9.4 Contact Details

The contact officer for this project is Ms Cymbaline who may be contacted on telephone number (08) 8924 4216, or email cymbaline@nt.gov.au.