

**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**DECISION**

No 2294-N of 21 December 2023

**ON PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AND APPROVING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Taking as a basis point 1 of part 1 of Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On environmental impact assessment and expert examination", the Government of the Republic of Armenia hereby decides:

1. To approve:
  - (1) procedure for conducting strategic environmental assessment, pursuant to Annex No 1;
  - (2) requirements for strategic environmental assessment report, pursuant to Annex No 2;
2. This Decision shall enter into force on the day following its official promulgation.

**Prime Minister  
of the Republic of Armenia**

**N. Pashinyan**

Yerevan

25 December 2023

CERTIFIED  
BY ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE

**Annex No 1**  
**to Decision of the Government**  
**of the Republic of Armenia**  
**No 2294-N of 21 December 2023**

**PROCEDURE**  
**FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. This Procedure shall regulate the relations connected with conducting strategic environmental assessment (hereinafter referred to as “the SEA”) of fundamental document stipulated by point 6 of part 1 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On environmental impact assessment and expert examination” (hereinafter referred to as “the Law”).
2. In cases prescribed by Article 21 of the Law, the initiator shall carry out the SEA process as prescribed by Article 22 of the Law.
3. The draft fundamental document and the SEA report shall — for the types of Category A of proposed activity — be subject to environmental impact expert examination within the time limit and through the procedure provided for by law.
4. The SEA shall be carried out in three stages:
  - (1) determining scope of the SEA;
  - (2) drawing up the SEA report;
  - (3) taking into account the results of the SEA in the fundamental document.

## 2. STAGE OF DETERMINING SCOPE OF THE SEA

5. During the stage of determining scope of the SEA, the following activities shall be carried out:
  - (1) baseline data (on the types of activities or projects envisaged by the fundamental documents, place of activity, implementation objectives, technical and economic indicators, size, capacities thereof, distribution of natural resources), information, analyses, participants of the process needed for the SEA shall be determined;
  - (2) public awareness shall be carried out as prescribed by Chapter 7 of the Law, and where necessary, transboundary notification and discussions shall be carried out as prescribed by Chapter 6 of the Law.
  - (3) alternative versions of the fundamental document, including the zero version of non-execution the fundamental document shall be determined;
  - (4) scale of the potential impact of provisions of the fundamental document on the environment and human health shall be clarified;
  - (5) information necessary for drawing up the SEA report, including those on the actual condition of the environment shall be collected;
  - (6) connection of the fundamental document with other fundamental or strategic documents shall be studied;
  - (7) scope of the potential impacts resulting from the application of provisions of the fundamental document shall be detected and studied;
  - (8) potential impacts on the socio-economic condition of population shall be studied.
6. The impacts of application of provisions of the fundamental document shall be assessed based on the following criteria of the potential impacts on the environment, including human health:

- (1) compliance of the fundamental document with the processes for protecting the environment, including human health, in particular, for the purpose of contributing sustainable development;
  - (2) scope of actions under the fundamental document, taking into account the location, nature, scale, conditions of operation;
  - (3) degree of impact of application of the fundamental document with other fundamental or strategic documents;
  - (4) nature, risks, possibility, duration, frequency, volume of the potential impacts on the environment, including the population health, the size of potentially affected area, the number of affected population;
  - (5) degree of impact of the fundamental document on the specially protected natural area or forest land or green zones of settlements or monuments of history and culture;
  - (6) transboundary nature of impacts.
7. All the draft fundamental documents and amendments made thereto, which will have a potential impact on the specially protected natural areas and forest land, monuments of history and culture, shall be subject to SEA. The fact of being subject to SEA and expert examination shall be determined by the authorised body, as a result of joint consultations with the initiator.

### **3. THE STAGE OF DRAWING UP SEA REPORT**

8. The SEA report shall be drawn up based on the requirements of Annex No 2 to this Decision.
9. While drawing up the report, the suggestions, comments and opinions submitted by participants of the process shall be taken into account. In case of failure to accept them, the relevant substantiations shall be included in the report.

10. The SEA report drawn up by an individual entrepreneur or a legal person holding a relevant licence shall — pursuant to part 1 of Article 23 of the Law — be submitted to the authorised body for expert examination.

### **3. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SEA RESULTS IN FUNDAMENTAL DOCUMENTS**

11. In compliance with the requirements of Annexes No 1 and 2 to this Decision, the provisions of the SEA report, as well as the results of public participation and consultations, shall be taken into account in the draft fundamental document.
12. The initiator must submit substantiations of how the provisions of the SEA report have been incorporated into the fundamental document.

### **5. MONITORING AND POST-PROJECT ANALYSIS**

13. During the application of provisions of the fundamental document and afterwards, the initiator shall — within the scope of his or her powers — carry out the monitoring of impact on the environment provided for by law regarding the application of provisions of the fundamental document and the resulting impacts on the environment.
14. As a result of the comparative analysis of the results of monitoring and fundamental document, the data of the SEA report, a post-project analysis programme shall be drawn up by the initiator.
15. By the first ten-day period of March of each year, the results of the monitoring and the post-project analysis shall be posted on the website of the initiator (where available) or shall be provided to the authorised body to be posted on the latter's website.
16. In case of emergence of unexpected impacts on the environment, including human health detected as a result of the monitoring provided for by point 13 of this Annex,

the initiator shall provide for and implement additional measures to protect the environment setting the deadlines for implementation. The measures shall be published on the website of the initiator (where available) or shall be provided to the authorised body to be posted on the latter's website.

**Chief of Staff  
of the Prime Minister  
of the Republic of Armenia**

**A. Harutyunyan**

25 December 2023

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**Annex No 2**  
**to Decision of the Government**  
**of the Republic of Armenia**  
**No 2294-N of 21 December 2023**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

1. The SEA report shall be developed by an individual entrepreneur or a legal person holding a relevant licence.
2. The SEA report shall be drawn up taking into account the content and degree of details of the fundamental document, the stage of the decision-making process thereon, public interests, existing knowledge, assessment methods and information needs of the decision-making body.
3. The SEA report of the fundamental document must include the following:
  - (1) brief description, objectives, implementation deadlines of the fundamental document, as well as connection or compliance with the other related fundamental documents approved for the given area, where available;
  - (2) brief content of the SEA report, which includes information on the initiator, brief description of the fundamental document, a publicly available, brief description of potential impacts as a result of the application of provisions of the fundamental document and the measures aimed at their mitigation;
  - (3) measures to prevent, reduce or mitigate the potential significant harmful impacts on the environment, including health, resulting from the application of provisions of the fundamental document;
  - (4) international treaties and other related legal acts certified or signed by the

Republic of Armenia related to the fundamental document;

- (5) current condition of the environment, including the population health, social factors and problems of the potentially affected area;  
  
(account when developing the fundamental document;
- (7) in case of application and non-application of provisions of the draft fundamental document, potential impacts on the environment, including human health, including transboundary;
- (8) comparison of all possible alternative versions (including zero) of approaches to the fundamental document and substantiation of the choice of the 6) the objectives regarding the environment, including the population health defined at the international, national and other levels, which concern the fundamental document and the ways, considerations having been taken into preferred version;
- (9) measures envisaged for preserving and strengthening the potentially positive impacts, preventing, excluding, reducing negative impacts and compensating for the damage to the environment, their effectiveness;
- (10) programme for impact monitoring and post-project analysis during the application of the fundamental document;
- (11) information on the assessment methods referred to in point 2 of this Annex, hindrances, technical deficiencies, difficulties, including absence of data that emerged during their application;
- (12) information on data sources included in the report;



(13 information on public notification, results of discussions, comments and recommendations submitted in writing or orally, opinions, substantiations for their acceptance or non-acceptance.

**Chief of Staff  
of the Prime Minister  
of the Republic of Armenia**

**A. Harutyunyan**

25 December 2023

CERTIFIED  
BY ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE

**Date of official promulgation: 25 December 2023.**