Utility Regulatory Authority Guidance for the EIAs of Projects Expedited under the 6th Amendment to the EIA Regulations

1-Water Supply Projects

1. The following acts, regulations and guidelines shall be covered in the report, and how the proposed project adheres to them must be provided:
   - Utility Regulatory Authority Act
   - Water and Sanitation Act
   - Waste Management Act
   - Provision of Utility Services Act
   - 2021/R-22 – Water Resources Conservation and Management Regulation
   - 2021/R-23 – General Regulation for Water and Sewerage Services in the Maldives
   - 2013/R-58 – Waste Management Regulation (including its 5 amendments)
   - 2021/R-17 – Water and Sewerage Service Subsidy Regulation
   - 2021/R-20 – Dewatering Regulation for Construction and Industrial Projects
   - URA 4001:2021: Design Criteria and Technical Specifications: Design and Construction of Water Treatment and Supply System

2. At the time of developing the EIA, any permits obtained from the authority shall be annexed to the report. Permits that are required to be acquired after the completion of the EIA shall be clearly listed, along with the prescribed procedures for obtaining them, and these approvals must be acquired prior to operation of the water supply system. These may include, but are not limited to, detailed design approval, dewatering permit, facility registration, and operating license.
3. Compliance with the relevant Waste Management Act/Regulation shall be ensured across all stages of the proposed project lifecycle, namely during the mobilization, construction, operational, demobilization, and decommissioning phases.
4. The RO plant shall be configured with two parallel units to satisfy the total water demand of the project's population while providing operational redundancy.
5. The intake water for the desalination plant shall not be sourced from groundwater or any location that may adversely impact the underlying aquifer. If the intake is a borehole, the URA Borehole Guidelines shall be followed.
6. The system design shall take into account the anticipated population growth of the island to ensure sufficient capacity to meet future demand.
7. The design shall ensure the provision of a minimum five days of water storage capacity.

8. The electricity service provider shall be consulted to verify their capacity to accommodate the additional energy demand resulting from the operation of the water supply system.
9. Finalization of the outfall location shall be informed by a thorough assessment of the island's reef structure and geographic characteristics, as well as outcomes from stakeholder and community consultations.
10. Environmentally sustainable construction methods, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), shall be evaluated and applied where feasible for brine outfall installation to minimize seabed disturbance and sediment dispersion.
11. The use of dispersion modelling is recommended, if feasible, to assess the impact of reject water from the outfall.
12. The influence of inward currents must be thoroughly assessed and mitigated to prevent potential adverse impacts on the local community. It is recommended that the sea outfall be oriented outward, away from the island/atoll, to facilitate effective dispersion. In cases where inward currents are present, appropriate dispersion and dilution strategies shall be implemented to ensure compliance with environmental and public health standards.
13. The proposed project activities shall be designed and implemented to ensure no adverse impacts on the groundwater table or the integrity of the underlying aquifer system.
14. Flood mapping and assessments of disaster-prone areas are recommended to be conducted prior to finalizing the locations of critical water supply system infrastructure.
15. Incorporate contingency measures in the report that address how water supply services will be maintained in the event of power outages, equipment/system failures, and natural hazards such as storm surges and flooding, ensuring uninterrupted service to the public.
16. A structured community consultation process shall be carried out to proactively address any public concerns related to the project.

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2- Sewerage Projects

1. The following acts, regulations and guidelines shall be covered in the report, and how the proposed project adheres to them must be provided:
   - Utility Regulatory Authority Act
   - Water and Sanitation Act
   - Waste Management Act
   - Provision of Utility Services Act
   - 2021/R-22 – Water Resources Conservation and Management Regulation
   - 2021/R-23 – General Regulation for Water and Sewerage Services in the Maldives
   - 2013/R-58 – Waste Management Regulation (including its 5 amendments)
   - 2021/R-17 – Water and Sewerage Service Subsidy Regulation
   - 2021/R-20 – Dewatering Regulation for Construction and Industrial Projects
   - URA 2001:2021: Design Criteria and Technical Specifications: Design and Construction of Sewerage System.

2. At the time of developing the EIA, any permits obtained from the authority shall be annexed to the report. Permits that are required to be acquired after the completion of the EIA shall be clearly listed, along with the prescribed procedures for obtaining them, and these approvals must be acquired prior to operation of the sewerage system. These may include, but are not limited to, detailed design approval, dewatering permit, facility registration, and operating license.
3. Compliance with the relevant Waste Management Act/Regulation shall be ensured across all stages of the proposed project lifecycle, namely during mobilization, construction, operation, demobilization, and decommissioning.
4. Finalization of outfall location shall be informed by a thorough assessment of the island's reef structure and geographic characteristics, as well as outcomes from stakeholder and community consultations.
5. The influence of inward currents must be thoroughly assessed and mitigated to prevent potential adverse impacts on the local community. It is recommended that the sea outfall be oriented outward, away from the island/atoll, to facilitate effective dispersion. In cases where inward currents are present, appropriate dispersion and dilution strategies shall be implemented to ensure compliance with environmental and public health standards.
6. Flood mapping and assessments of disaster-prone areas are recommended to be conducted prior to finalizing the locations of critical sewer system infrastructure.

7. The use of dispersion modelling is recommended, if feasible, to assess the impact of discharge water from the outfall.
8. Dispersion modelling shall be utilized to assess the impact of discharge water from the outfall, if feasible.
9. The proposed project activities shall be designed and implemented to ensure no adverse impacts on the groundwater table or the integrity of the underlying aquifer system.
10. The proposed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) process technology shall be specified, including detailed design parameters along with a technical justification for the selected process.
11. In cases where the project scope excludes an STP, the implementation timeline and integration plan for the STP shall be clearly defined. The EIA must address interim measures, including the quantified impacts of untreated wastewater discharge on marine ecosystems and the proposed mitigation strategies.
12. Environmentally sustainable construction methods, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), shall be evaluated and applied where feasible for sewer outfall installation to minimize seabed disturbance and sediment dispersion.
13. Pump station depths shall be limited to a maximum of 3.5 meters to prevent septic conditions and excessive retention times. Where deeper installations are unavoidable, technical justification must be provided.
14. Sewer odour management measures shall be incorporated into the design to prevent nuisance and occupational hazards.
15. The system design shall take into account the anticipated population growth of the island to ensure sufficient capacity to meet future demand.
16. The maximum possible amount of treated wastewater shall be reused in accordance with URA guidelines.
17. The electricity service provider shall be consulted to verify their capacity to accommodate the additional energy demand resulting from the operation of the sewerage system.
18. Contingency measures shall be incorporated into the design to ensure continuity of sewerage services in the event of power outages, equipment/system failures, and natural hazards such as storm surges and flooding, thereby ensuring uninterrupted service to the public.

3- Power Supply Projects

1. The following acts, regulations, standards and guidelines shall be covered in the report, and how the proposed project adheres to them must be provided:
    - Utility Regulatory Authority Act
    - Maldives Energy Act
    - Waste Management Act
    - Provision of Utility Services Act
    - Guideline for Power Systems Approval
    - Electrical Installation Standards 2023
    - 2021/R-22 – Energy Facility Registration and Licensing Regulation
    - 2013/R-58 – Waste Management Regulation (including its 5 amendments)

2. At the time of developing the EIA, any permits obtained from the authority shall be annexed to the report. Permits that are required to be acquired after the completion of the EIA shall be clearly listed, along with the prescribed procedures for obtaining them, and these approvals must be acquired prior to operation of the power supply system. These may include, but are not limited to, detailed design approval, facility registration, and operating license.
3. Ensure that all necessary permits and approvals are obtained for the power generation facility or standby genset during both the construction and operational phases of the project.
4. All electrical designs and drawings must be submitted to URA for approval through a URA-licensed engineer or reviewer.
5. Ensure that all electrical design works during the construction and operational phases are carried out under the supervision of a URA-licensed engineer.
6. Compliance with the relevant Waste Management Act/Regulation shall be ensured across all stages of the proposed project lifecycle, namely during the mobilization, construction, operational, demobilization and decommissioning phases.
7. The system design shall take into account the anticipated population growth of the island to ensure sufficient capacity to meet future energy demand.
8. Power facility design and supporting infrastructures must meet installation standards and fire safety standards.
9. Ensure availability of backup generators or batteries to maintain minimum power supply during outages or maintenance.
10. Adhere strictly to all safety regulations concerning the storage, transfer, and handling of fuel.
11. The proposed project activities shall be designed and implemented to ensure no adverse impacts on the groundwater table or the integrity of the underlying aquifer system.

12. Address the adverse impacts that may arise in terms of noise, emission, and land use.
13. Incorporate contingency measures in the report that address how power services will be maintained in the event of outages, equipment/system failures, and natural hazards such as storm surges and flooding, ensuring uninterrupted service to the public.
14. A structured community consultation process shall be carried out to proactively address any public concerns related to the project.

4- Waste Management Projects

1. The following acts, regulations and guidelines shall be covered in the report, and how the proposed project adheres to them must be provided:
   - Utility Regulatory Authority Act
   - Waste Management Act
   - 2021/R-22 – Water Resources Conservation and Management Regulation
   - 2013/R-58 – Waste Management Regulation (including its 5 amendments)
   - 2023/R-115 – Waste Management Service Registration and Billing Regulation
   - URA 3003:2023 – Design Guidelines for Waste Management Facilities

2. At the time of developing the EIA, any permits obtained from the authority shall be annexed to the report. Permits that are required to be acquired after the completion of the EIA shall be clearly listed, along with the prescribed procedures for obtaining them, and these approvals must be acquired prior to operation of the waste management system. These may include, but are not limited to, waste management facility detailed design approval and operating license.
3. Please ensure that the waste management facility locations are approved by the relevant government authorities.
4. Compliance with the relevant Waste Management Act/Regulation shall be ensured across all stages of the proposed project lifecycle, namely during the mobilization, construction, operational, demobilization and decommissioning phases.
5. Adhere strictly to the Design Guidelines for Waste Management Facilities during the design and planning phases of the waste management facilities.
6. The electricity service provider shall be consulted to verify their capacity to accommodate the additional energy demand resulting from the operation of the waste management system.
7. The system design shall take into account the amount and composition of waste generated and anticipated population growth of the island to ensure sufficient capacity to meet future demand.
8. It is recommended that the waste management facilities have a waste storage capacity sufficient for a minimum of two weeks and be equipped, at minimum, with the following waste processing equipment: glass crusher, compactor, wood chipper, and composting unit.
9. Waste management facility design and supporting infrastructures must meet utility installation standards and fire safety codes.
10. The proposed project activities shall be designed and implemented to ensure no adverse impacts on the groundwater table or the integrity of the underlying aquifer system.
11. Incorporate contingency measures in the report that address how waste management services will be maintained in the event of power outages, equipment/system failures, utility disruptions,

and natural hazards such as storm surges and flooding, ensuring uninterrupted service to the public.

12. A structured community consultation process shall be carried out to proactively address any public concerns related to the project.