

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

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1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to establish the general requirements for the process of determining the Significant Environmental Aspects that are applicable for our WWTP, and to define a specification for determining them.

Understanding the Environmental Aspects and Impacts of the WWTP operations is necessary for the development of an Environmental Policy, setting Environmental Objectives & Targets, and subsequent development of EMP and control programs to manage those aspects deemed significant, consistent with the International Standard ISO 14001:2004.

The International Standard ISO 14001: 2004, section 4.3.1, requires a document process to identify the Environmental Aspects of its activities or services that it can control in order to determine those which can or may have significant Environmental Impacts.

2 SCOPE

This procedure identifies the Environmental Aspects and Impacts, and related significance, of the activities and products associated with the WWTP operation and with the Environmental Program.

3 DEFINITIONS

3.1 Activity

Something that occurs at the WWTP facility in order to transport wastewater, or produce clean wastewater.

3.2 Critical Control Point

An Environmental Aspect that is considered critical to ensuring a quality water effluent as required under the EMS program.

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3.3 Environmental Aspect

An “Environmental Aspect” is defined as any element of the organization’s activities and products that do or can potentially interact with the environment.

3.4 Environmental Impact

An “Environmental impact” is any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, resulting from the Environmental Aspects. The methodology to determinate the significance is decided by the organization.

3.5 Frequency/ Probability

The number of times an environmental aspect occurs (e.g., daily, monthly, yearly, infrequently, etc.) or the likelihood of the aspect occurring (very, not very).

3.6 Significant Environmental Aspect

An Environmental Aspect that the EMS Team has determined to be serious enough to be included in the EMS program’s Objectives & Targets in order to ensure that it is properly controlled.

4 RESPONSIBILITY & AUTHORITY

The EMS Team shall ensure that the identified aspects with Significant Environmental Impacts are considered in setting of the Environmental Objectives & Targets.

5 PROCEDURE

This procedure identifies the Environmental Aspects and Impacts and to determine significance. This procedure has been prepared in accordance with the International

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Standard ISO 14001 Section 4.3.1 and was utilized during the Initial Review and implementation of the EMS for the site.

For the implementation of this EMS, and then annually thereafter, is necessary an evaluation of the Environmental Aspects and Impacts of its activities and products. The EMS team coordinates this procedure.

5.1 Identifying Activities

Each activity that occurs at the WWTP shall be identified to its smallest or most manageable component in order to ensure that all potential Environmental Impacts are considered.

5.2 Identifying Environmental Aspects

Each year, the EMS Team will analyze all areas of the WWTP to determine Environmental Aspects and Impacts.

- To review the Environmental Aspects via interviews, site reconnaissance, and document review for the area or function defined. To consider waste streams generated (air, water, solid waste), energy exchange (energy used and energy released), resource consumption, community and interested stakeholder input, and human and ecosystem toxicity.
- Environmental Aspects shall be identified for all key departmental activities having the potential for harmful interactions with the environment and public health:
 - Discharges to surface waters or groundwater.
 - Solid wastes handling and disposal, including transport.
 - Odors.
 - Emergency response.
 - Chemical or product storage.
 - Regulatory requirements.
- A documented record of aspects shall be maintained. New aspects shall be considered as necessary.

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5.3 Identifying Environmental Impacts: Actual and/or potential impacts

For each aspect presented on the table, an Environmental Impact shall be assigned. This shall be based on impacts in one of the following areas:

- Changes in air quality.
- Changes in water quality.
- Direct exposure to agent.
- Changes in habitat.
- Nuisance (including odor).
- Conserves/depletes resources.
- Frequency/Probability.
- Is it regulated?
- Is it a critical control point?

5.4 Significance determination

Once Environmental Aspects have been identified, the EMS Team shall review them related to potential for Environmental Impacts and determine their significance. In evaluating the significance of an impact, past, present and potential for future events should be considered.

The EMS Team will use a numeric ranking system. Reviews listed aspects and selected aspects identified as significant in accordance with the International Standard ISO 14001. An aspect will be evaluated for their significance using the following criteria and scoring. Aspects with a determined score or higher will be considered significant.

o **Frequency:**

- 0- No quantifiable expectation/ potential.
- 1- Potential is less than once every 10 years.
- 2- Potential is about once a year.
- 3- Impacts occur periodically, but predictably.

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4- Impacts occur on occasion without warning.

5- Impacts occur continuously.

o **Severity**

0- No known Environmental Impact.

1- Nuisance impact.

2- Minor impact to the environment.

3- Reversible impacts not requiring intervention.

4- Reversible impact requiring intervention.

5- Irreversible impact to the ecosystem.

o **Critical control point**

0- An activity that is not a Critical Control Point.

3- A Critical Control Point.

- The EMS Team shall deem identified significant aspects.
- Aspects considered to be significant shall be prioritized in a documented record. The record shall be reviewed as needed to set associated environmental objectives and targets and measures of control.
- The EMS Team shall communicate the Significant Environmental Aspects and associated Environmental Impacts to staff within the department and where necessary, contractors working on site.

All Environmental Aspects will be shown in a table as follows



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Location	Activity	Environmental Aspect																	
			Degradation of air quality																
			Degradation of surface water																
			Groundwater contamination																
			Depletion of water supply																
			Solid contamination																
			Land consumption (Landfill, etc.)																
			Depletion of energy resources																
			Nuisance (odor, etc.)																
			Local Aesthetics																
			Severity																
			Frequency/Probability																
			Regulated?																
			Critical Control Point																
			<u>TOTAL SCORE</u>																
			<u>SIGNIFICANT</u>																

